1MI

rashee

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 1996

# Martin Guerre \etwork



D.I.V.O.R.C.E

Polly Toynbee:

# Blair to come out on voting reform

al Correspondent

Blair, the Labour leader, ected to declare his hand before the general election on the question of changing the He will come under pres pell out where he stands as

mocrat figures on plans for the referendum on electoral reform which Labour has promised. Indications that Mr Blair will clarify his personal views come

Labour and the Liberal

Labour and Liberal De-

Blair is in the happy position of seeing Labour's selfish sectional interest coincide with the interest of our democracy as a whole.

He must, surely, be beginning to realise what he should do . . . take a deep breath

and lunge towards reform. Leading article page 11

Democrats, for whom a "fair" voting system is a central demand. The offices of Mr Blair and Paddy Ashdown, the Libcrai Democrat leader, regularly consult each other before the twice-weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons. The Independent has learned.

Mr Blair has previously said

he was "not persuader!" of the case for proportional representation (PR), and has sent mixed signals about other reforms which fall short of full PR. He has also said that he would take a clear position at the time of a referend im. The pressure on Mr Blair has also been increased by the breakdown of the unofficial struce on the issue among Labour MPs, who last week recruit ed signatories to rival Comp. sons mo-tions. Two frontbem hers have joined the fray, a th Derek Entshalt Fatchett, a foreign affairs spokesman defending the existing system, and Janet Anderson, shadow Minister for

#### QUICKLY

Fertility squeeze Many county's eligible for NHS fertility tradition are missing out here: See of a dispute between 1 calch authorities and GPS. If who pays for the fertilin, urugs they need. Page 3

Judges strike back Michael Howard's plan for tougher sentences for criminals faces another setback after the Lord Chief Justice warned of a parliamentary revolt to protect



Women, advocating change Backbench supporters of electoral reform were delighted when Tory MPs started to sign Mr Patchett's motion.

Earlier this year several or those close to Mr Blair signalled their support for allowing voters to mark ballot papers with numbers in order of prefernative Vote which would boost the Liberal Democrats without giving them full PR. This compromise is believed to be acceptable to Jack Straw, Lawho would be responsible for

the legislation is government. A senior adviser to Mr Ashthere were discussions between he and Mr Blair defore each Tuesday and Thursday session, resulting in co-ordinated opposition attack on the government Mr Ashdown wants to ensure that his question is covered by the broadcasters, which usually means it has to be on the same subject as Mr Blair's. Mr Ashdown followed up Mr Blair's most recent clash with John Major, last Tuesday, with a sharper version of the same

Mr Cook and Robert Maclennan, the Liberal Democrat president, announced a joint committee of both parties to thrash out a "common programme" of democratic re-

the private use of handguns.

Mr Ashdown. Mr Blair attended a party at the Ashdowns' house in London to celebrate Mr Ashdown's: 55th birthday in February. The

F	
Business & City	15-17
Comment	.11-13
Foreign News	8-10
Gazette	14
Home News	<b>.2-</b> 7
Law Report	14
Loading Articles	11
Letters	11
i Ohituaries	14
Science	18
Shares	15
Silates	
The Tabloid	
Arts	
Chess	
Culture	
Cunna	- 2,3

lives again

bour's home affairs spokesman

question on the health service. The pace of Lib-Lab cooperation has accelerated markedly this parliamentary session. It opened with a joint call by Donald Dewar and Archie Kirkwood, the two parties' chief whips, for tougher ac-tion on sleaze. Until then, there had been only one joint news conference, in January, when the foreign affairs spokesmen Robin Cook and Menzies Campbell attacked the government over the Scott Report on

the sale of arms to Iraq. But at the end of last month

forms for after the election. Jack Straw and Alex Carlile, the two parties' home affairs spokesmen, last week presented to the Home Office joint plans to ban combat knives, and both parties have called for a ban on

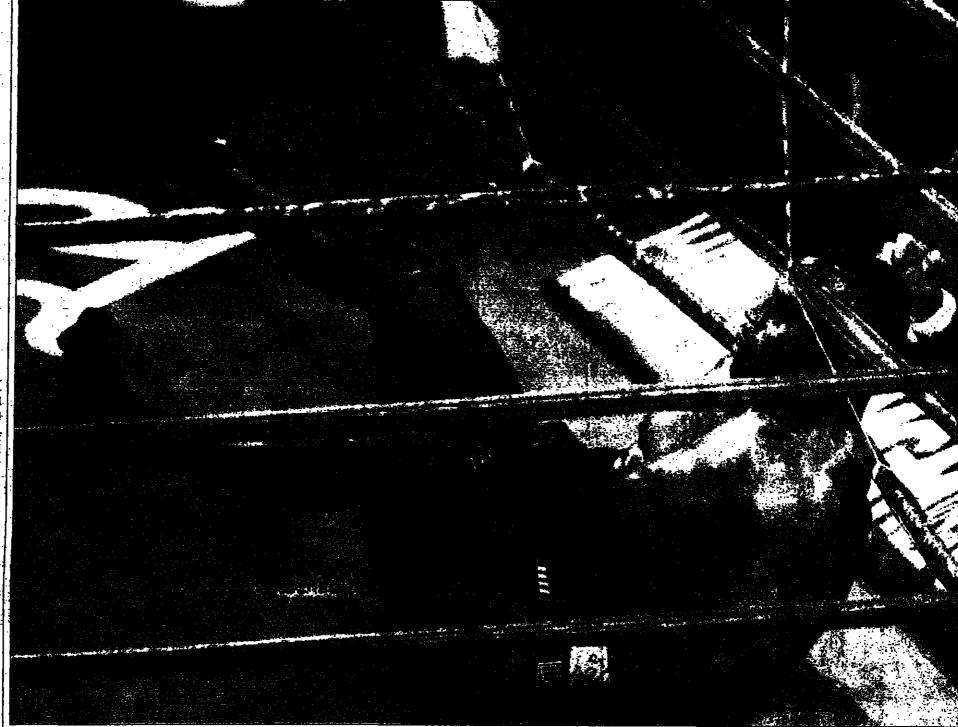
Equally important, however, have been the personal contacts, growing in frequency and warmth, between Mr Blair and

Ashdowns have also been entertained at the Blairs' house in Islington, north London.

#### CONTENTS The Broadsheet

mment	Zaire into the hills,
reign News8-10	several hundred
zette14	frightened Zaireans
me News	cation, not to say th
w Report14	tion, remains a myste
ading Articles	reports from the surv
tters	
MCIS 111111111111111111111111111111111111	ling out of the bush
ituaries	vation, disease and
ience	officials estimate se
ares	dred refugees a day
	and that 80,000 child
The Tabloid	this month without h
ls	will all be dead by th
ess30	UN makes up its mit
ture 2,3	ON makes up its the
20.	do," said a senior UN
ossword	Burundi.
neration Gap8	Late on Friday
tings	United Nations Secu

# Infamous pugilist suffers unexpected reversal



Evander Holyfield caused one of the biggest upsets in the history of boxing on Saturday when he scored an 11thround technical knockout over Mike Tyson in Las Vegas to become the World Boxing Association heavy-

weight champion. Holyfield, 34 from Atlanta, Georgia, who was at odds of more than 16-1 against just a few days before the contest at the MGM Grand Casino, equalled Muhammad's Ali's record of winning a version of the

heavyweight title three times. It was only the second loss for Tyson, 30, in 47 professional contests

and his first in five undertaken since being paroled from the Indiana Youth Centre in March last year after serving three years for the rape of a beauty queen contestant.

As Tyson is considered to be one of the most powerful punchers heavyweight boxing has ever known, achieving 39 of his victories inside the

the 1984 Olympic silver medallist who was reported to have a cardiac problem in 1994 after losing the WBA and International Boxing Federation titles

to Michael Moorer. Holyfield that the Nevada State Athletic Commission would not sanction

distance, little hope was held out for the contest until he underwent tests at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. "I put my trust in God," Holyfield a deeply religious man said afterwards. There is likely to be a re-matchnext year.

> Flat out: Tyson goes down in the 11th Photograph: Jeff Scheid/AP Full report, Sport, pages 2,3

# 'They'll all be dead by the time the UN decides'

In the camps from which they fled, there is only wreckage, a scattering of belongings, bodies. The Hutu refugees who sheltered there are up in the hills, dying of disease, thirst and starvation, while the United Nations is apparently still not ready to act after a weekend of futile discussion.

.The sequence of events seems dismally familiar - from Somalia, Rwanda, and now Zaire. Ethnic and economic tensions spark a war, which becomes a refugee crisis, which becomes a humanitarian tra-gedy – and all the while the "international community" discusses exit strategies and force levels. And nothing happens.

Aid workers pulled out of eastern Zaire over a week ago. after an uprising by anti-goverument Zairean Tutsis sparked conflict with government troops. The Hutu refugees, who had fied from Rwanda and Burundi, were forced to fice again.

More than a million scrambled from the camps in eastern along with thousand s. Their loheir condiery, but first vivors trickare of stardeath. Aid veral huny are dying, dren will die help. "They he time the ind what to N official in

nrity Conncil tried to agree a resolution es-tablishing an intervention force, ......9-25 cil tried to agree a resolution es-

By Andrew Marshall Foreign Editor



future: A boy among a crowd of Rwandans trying Fear of the Photograph: Enric Marti / AP border from Zaire

olution sin ested coun ies to make plans The US, in parit needed "more nsider the crisis. and a decision has been postponed until 20 November. France, Thich has taken the

lead in preging for a troop deployment, hocated a greater

but it came nothing. The responding participation of an American ly called for inter- contingent alongside Europeans and Africans would bear witness to the importance the international community attaches to resolving this human

tragedy together," it said But the US - with Somalia still fresh in the minds of policy planners in Washington - is reluctant and Britain, too, is less force that will have been authorised," said Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday. But he added: "Even when you take the decision, it takes a little while . . . the pure logistics of getting people to the heart of Africa takes time."

Diplomatic efforts continued over the weekend to bring relief, but with little result. The UN envoy Raymond Chrétien tried but apparently failed to persuade Zairean authorities to agree to safe havens inside

Zaire - which has long demanded that the refugees go back to Rwanda and Burundisays any relief operation for the refugees must be in their own countries. "It is extremely frustrating for me to see more obstacles presenting themselves than possible solutions." Mr Chrétien said.

Rwanda has at last given permission for assistance to be delivered to the refugees from its side of the border, having previously insisted that aid should only be distributed inside Rwanda itself. But talks with the rebels inside Zaire, who control most of the border area, were inconclusive.

Emma Bonino, the EU's outspoken commissioner for aid, spoke for many involved in the crisis. "How can I tell them the Security Council doesn't see ... doesn't listen ... doesn't care," she said. "The states who prevented a force being deployed are an international scandal

an international disgrace. "I really wonder how they can sleep at night. How do they explain their actions to their wives,

#### **ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR** YOUR LIFE **ASSURANCE?**

There are many Banks, Building Societies, and Insurance Companies offering to arrange for you their own company's

The first 2 months' premiums refunded!

At Direct Life & Pension Services we are Independent Financial Advisers and are able to provide a range of policies from many different companies.

This means that the illustrations we obtain are amongst the most competitive available, every time we quote. Consider the illustrations below, obtained recently for a 20 year, £100,000 level term assurance for a married couple

We can arrange this cover for	53.30
Black Horse Life	101.68
Halifax Life	87.74
Midland Life	86.47
Barclays Life	86.00
Nat West Life	82.36
Narionwide Life	76.31

For applications received before the end of 1996 we are refunding the first two months premiums\* So if you are interested in a life assurance, decreasing term (mortgage protection) or critical illness illustration and would like Independent advice call us at local rates on

0345 419410

#### Athletes set to cash in on lottery

Olympic hopefuls could be paid tax-free salaries from lottery funds of up to £28,000 a year in a move that may help avoid a repeat of the embarrassingly poor show by British athletes in Atlanta.

The idea is part of a plan that the Sports Council is reported to be considering for a £50m grant from the National Lottery.

Athletes would be meanstested to ensure the money went to those in most need of financial support. Their annual payments would be awarded on a sliding scale related directly to achievement and potential and based on international and national rankings. Nominations would be made by the governing bodies of each sport. Clare Garner

#### Priest hurt in knife attack

Police in north-west Scotland are hunting a knife attacker who slashed the face of church minister during a Remembrance service in the Highland village of Scourie. The Rev James Macpherson, 41, was leading prayers at the village war memorial just after the two-minutes' silence when he was slashed across the cheek by a man wielding a long-bladed knife, causing a wound that required 16

#### **Mawhinney** on offensive

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative party chairman, sought last night to exploit the resignation of the Labour candidate for the pending byelection in Wirral South. Ian Wingfield resigned last

week as candidate for the Merseyside seat left vacant by the death last weekend of Conservative MP Barry

Mr Mawhinney said that, if true, newspaper reports that Mr Wingfield had been violent towards his girlfriend and former wife made a "mockery of New Labour's claim to be the party of family values". John Rentoul

Germany .... DM4.5 Sweden..... Skr21

#### Cornwall hit by earthquake

West Cornwall was yesterday hit by the area's biggest earthquake for 15 years. The British Geological

Survey said the tremor was felt in towns and villages from Padstow to Land's End. and measured 3.8 on the Richter scale.

Police stations were inundated with calls, but there were no reports of injuries or major damage. Britain experienced its worst quake in 1931. Centred on Dogger Bank in the North

Sea, it registered 6.1 on the

Richter scale.

#### TV diet 'fails health test'

Almost all foods advertised on television aimed at children are high in fat, sugar or salt, according to a new study. Consumers International, a

federation of 215 consumer organisations in more than 90 countries, found that confectionery, breakfast cereals and fast-food restaurants accounted for more than half of all food advertisements on television. "Most governments and the World Health Organisation are trying to promote the importance of healthy, balanced diets, especially for children," said Lucy Harris, of Consumers International. This report shows that TV food advertising essentially undermines that message.

#### Alarm call for schools

The school day would start earlier under plans drawn up by a key Labour adviser. Professor Michael Barber,

who is leading Labour's literacy task force, is proposing an 8am start to the secondary school day. The morning would be given over to formal lessons, leaving an afternoon session - up to around 4pm - devoted to broader learning".

Professor Barber is due to unveil the plan tomorrow at London conference organised by Community Service Volunteers.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Denimark . . . . , Dkr18 Norway . . . . . Nkr20 cheque pojable to Johnsons Internacional Media Service

Luxembourg ... LF60 USA ....... \$3.00 Historic Newspapers, telephone 01988 840370.

#### Political Correspondent Civil servants were asked by

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, to round up Conservative sympathisers in the public services.

A leaked Cabinet Office memo, dated 19 August but leaked yesterday, makes it clear that the initiative was set up by Mr Heseltine in July and approved by the Prime Minister.

Responding to press reports that Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, had blocked the use of officials to recruit "cheerleaders" for the Tories, which would have breached civil ser-vice rules, Mr Heseltine said: The moment I was aware, on my return from holiday in Sep-tember, that a proposal could be open to such a suggestion, I issued instructions that no such practice was acceptable. But the memo says that in

July Mr Heseltine "proposed

that departments should identify service providers who could be vigorous proponents of Government policies". Their names could be made known to the media, "to facilitate balanced reporting of developments". The plan to find teachers

achieved in their ares

A detail from the leaked Cabinet Office memorandum

doctors and public service workers or leaders was to be overseen by the Cabinet committee, known as EDCP and chaired by Mr Heseltine, responsible for "co-ordinating and presenting" government policy.

THE ROYLES SERVICES IN PURLIC SERVICES

In his minute of 24 July to the Prime Minister re

peniner of improving stangards in public service, the Deg Prime Minister proposed that Departments should identify service providers who could be vigorous and attractive proposeds of Government policine. The messer of Government policine. The messer of Government policine. The messer of Government policine.

The memo was a round robin

from an official in Mr Heseltine's Cabinet Office to all departments: "To enable EDCP to take an overview, I should be grateful if recipients of this letcould let [name blacked out] here have their depart-

ments' plans for action to set up

Memo shows Heseltine wanted

civil servants to find supporters

245 Talphan (27)-070 0100 28x 20 0171 270 0057

panels of people supporting the Government's policies, by 24 September."

private secretaries, rather than civil servants for this purpose." to their political advisers, apparently in breach of the 1975

on party political matters.
Giles Radice, the Labour Public Service Committee, who pleased to see Sir Robin is defending the conventions endisturbing to see that govern-"particular story was leaked," ment ministers seem to be try-said Mr. Heseltine. ing to flout it." He said he would ask the committee to summon Mr Heseltine to give evidence. The Deputy Prime Minister

told BBC radio: "Robin Butler's note to me made it clear his view, with which I totally agreed, that departments in carrying out this responsibility should use their political special

had passed between civil servants, he said: "The important If was circulated to ministers' thing is to be sure we don't use

He accused Labour of waging a "dirty tricks" campaign civil service code. Civil ser- against him, and attacked vants are not allowed to work Baroness Symous, a newly-appointed Labour life peer and former head of the First Divichairman of the cross-party sion Association of senior civil servants. Sir Robin told her drew up the code, said: "I am of his ruling in a letter on Fri-pleased to see Sir Robin is de-day. "Within hours of Robin Butler having made clear that shrined in the code, but it is the position was satisfactory, this

Earlier, Lady Symons told the BBC: "I'm not concerned with the party politics of this at all. I'm concerned with civil service political neutrality being protected." She said particular care to distinguish between ap-propriate and inappropriate uses of civil servants must be

 $e^{\eta (k|l!)^{\alpha (k-1)}}$ 

disc. but

gentik di da Kart and

BRAC CATAL CO.

templification

de mentione

The states

de Amin's

district to the

man as lot as

homen at \$11 .

ale December

Mish to

の できまり

BOTES Wind

**飯** (b) 11

cc.W

lateur . :!

pront :

Market 1 to 1 to 1

salit-ti il

Alle de la little CONTRACTOR and in the second

tallight. H. A. .

a Owk is the fitting for the drawde product fence (allegente)

"Policy agency

the tables of the

Street of States

morning to the last

ne while following

are that leading the

ten padalen his

in the policy state of the

The angel, results

pig weight of the first

ed treatile in

at the kelbal ( 2001)

S MUTHAT Y

Man dry train and

ingers at the train

As the odd of the Secretary of the odd of the

Control of the state of the sta

for their houses

for implies distriction and action in the many actions and actions and actions and actions and actions and actions are actions as a construction of the actions are actions and actions are actions as a construction of the action of the actions are actions as a construction of the action of

sup are not are an art

mind Limite British

the so tar make

**期**的17 (5) (1)

Decesion.

edania - . . .

haith min Wittenson at

health)

#### Sabbath tipple breaks Welsh drought

Tony Heath

The weather was unseasonally dry in Wales yesterday but for the first time in more than a century, the whole Principality was wet, because every pub was open for Sunday drinking.

Last Wednesday's referendum lifted the ban in Dwyfor, the last bastion of the shuttered Sabbath, by a majority of at least 2-1.

Customers queued early outside the Coach Inn, at the seaside village of Clynnog Fawr, near Caernarfon. Overnight, landlord Steven Williams decorated it with bunting and unfurled a flag saying: "We Are Open on Sunday". At noon his son and daughter cut a red ribbon. The first drink was on the house, and Mr Williams was dehted: "It's good to have com into the 20th century". Belgum ...., 85:80 haly ...... L4,500 Ar mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110.76; Zone 1 (Adolfe

At the Anchorage Inn, at Cananes ... Pc300 Madera ... Esc325 East, America, Africa and India) £1,84,08; Zone 2 (Far Abersoch landlady Tracy Jones Cyprus .....C.C.L.20 Maita .....43 cents East and Australiasa) E208.70. To order, please send said: "Sunday opening will Insh Rep . . . . . 45p Portugal . . . Esc325 Util to 43 Milharbout, London E14 97R or telephone 01.71make a big difference when the village is packed with holidaymakers in the summer."

Robert Cooke, a regular, agreed. "It's good to have cleared up this business, which



Liquid assets: A Portmadog pub yesterday, when the Principality's last parched enclave joined the 20th century

saw people having to turn away bit more cash into our pockets," on a Sunday". Gareth Hughes, a barman at the Golden Fleece, in Tremadog, is one of many pub staff welcoming the change. work on a rota. The chance to

he said. Brian Jones, a farmer, who was enjoying a pre-lunch erendums at seven-yearly in-

drink, declared: "Locals like myself appreciate this - and there's "In many pubs, part-timers no doubt that tourists will too." Yesterday marked the end of help out on Sundays will put a a long battle by the Seven-Day

Opening Council to bring weeklong opening across Wales. Since 1961, when districts were legally entitled to hold ref-

tervals, the "wet" movement has And last week's poll ended

the anomaly which confused visitors and affected the takings

in "dry" areas. David Baird-Murray, a Llan-drindod Wells hotelier, who chairs the council, was relieved: Tr's been about the public's freedom of choice. At last com-

mon sense has prevailed." The Reverend Iwan Liewelyn Jones, a leader of the "dry" campaign, was regretful but resigned: "It's bitterly disappointing to see something special like Sunday disappearing for good."



#### Protect your mortgage from future uncertainty.

Very few things in life are certain. You could find yourself unable to work due to accident, illness or redundancy. This could

mean your home is at risk.

General Accident Direct

But with Mortgage Payment Protection you can protect your mortgage for an average of only £15 a month. It's a good feeling

to know your home is safe.

#### PROTECT YOUR MORTGAGE FREEPHONE 0800 121 008

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am ~8pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am ~5pm. y you must have been in continuous employment (at least 16 hours a week) for the last 6 months. Certain conditions apply.

# Schools struggle to cover curriculum

vises the Government on the

curriculum, to cut back the

curriculum after teachers com-

plained that it was overloaded.

subjects came six years after the

national curriculum was intro-

duced and after there had already

been a series of changes which left most teachers bewildered.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary

of State for Education, has

much more manageable and

straightforward than the old.

The decision to review all

**Education Editor** 

The national curriculum is still too crowded in junior schools despite the Government's efforts to slim it down, says the first official report on the new timetable. Most teachers believe the new slimmed-down curriculum for 5- to 14-year olds is an improvement on the old one but that in some subjects they are struggling to cover all the material required.

Teachers of 7- to 11-year-olds, the age group whom inspectors say are the worst taught, have the biggest problems. Far from neglecting the ba-

sics, these teachers, the evidence shows, are spending so much time on English, maths and science that they may be squeezing out other subjects. Two years ago, ministers

promised there will be no more changes until the year 2000. The report from the authority, designed to show whether sion will be needed, says that schools find the new curriculum

But the report, based on school visits and interviews with teachers and experts, suggests some worries remain. In English, teachers have difficulty asked Sir Ron Dearing, head of the School Curriculum and As-

sessment Authority, which ad- mary teachers say they cannot squeeze everything into the time available. Sir Ron aimed to free up time to allow schools to offer subjects not included in the prescribed curriculum but

that has not happened. The authority says: "Many schools have used the freed-up time... to concentrate on the national curriculum subjects rather than to extend the curriculum into areas such as modern foreign languages or environmental studies."

The report also says lack of funds is preventing teachers from meeting all curriculum requirements. Few schools are teaching Information Technol ogy properly, because they do not have enough computers, or lack suitably trained teachers.

The report says it is too carly to say whether the curriculum is raising standards but it has led some teachers to change their

# BBC to correct pledges paper

Media Editor

The BBC conceded yesterday that its "Statement of Promises to Viewers and Listeners" needed to be corrected to remove suggestions that its main broadcasting rivals did not offer a full range of programme genres in peak time.

The misrepresentation in the statement, which outlined the BBC's 230 promises to licencepayers, last week infuriated hannel 4 and ITV, which both called on the BBC to act swiftly to remedy the mistake. As re-ported in *The Independent*, the two rival broadcasters said the BBC should withdraw the document, which is being offered to as many as 10 million households to help prove that the BBC offers value for money.

The list of programme gen-res on page 7 of the 50-page document suggested that Channel 4 broadcast no naturat history, contemporary music

time. It also implied that ITV had no factual programmes

during peak hours.
The BBC explained yesterday that the list was based on strict criteria: "A broadcaster must transmit UK-made programmes in each category for more than half an hour in an average week at peak time," between opm and 10:30pm.

In a letter to The Independent, published today, the BBC said:
We should have stated the criterion for inclusion [of programming] and how the calculations were arrived at We will correct this in further

print runs of the promises."
Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said he would order a review of the schedule to see whether the channel did meet the criteria. "But in any event, the BBC now admits it made a mistake," he added. If think that dwery copy already printed should be withdrawn Letters, page !

# Diplomats to join trade spotting business

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Trade spotting, the promotion of exports and inward investment, is to be made a central function of the Diplomatic Service at all British missions overseas, a Government White

Paper will announce today. The change of gear for the embassies and high commissions has been agreed by lan Laing, President of the Board of Trade, and the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, who will make a Commons statewill make a Commons state-ment on the White Paper, imaginative and headline catch-

"Global Free Trade And Foring way will therefore be par-ticularly important." commercial teams. "But it is now going to be a central and eign Policy", this afternoon.

The impact of the policy was blunted yesterday by a leaked letter from John Major's office. in which a member of his staff wrote: "Presentation will obviously be crucial if the White Paper is to achieve the impact we

"The Prime Minister noted there is not much of the paper which can be seen as identifiably new and that distilling from it a convincing action plan may

only by inward, foreign invest-

ment in Britain, but also by British investment overseas. A Government source said vesterday that the White Paper marked a stronger commitment

to the promotion of trade "from the heart of the Foreign Office". Trade promotion was no longer being seen as something

The key message of the not an ancillary function," the White Paper is that diplomacy can be improved by trade and source said. that exports can be helped not

The White Paper will mark change in the relationship beween the Foreign Office and vided 6,000 specific information a change in the relationship between the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry, with the creation of a joint export promotion directorate which will have the job of making sure that the new policy penetrates all parts of the

lomatic Service. \*There is already a greater export consciousness within the beneath ambassadors and all big
missions already have strong
Foreign Office but it does need
a push," the source said

commercial teams. "But it is Nevertheless, as it is DTT's, now going to be a central and White Paper on competit. iveness." said in June, 85,000 Britis and

vided 6,000 specific information services for British business.

The Foverment provides a range of services delivered through a worldwide network of over 200 commercial posts overseas, the White Paper said.

The world was backed up by a DHI staff of Jundon which included molecular 100 export promotess as gonded from the provide section.

Too old

and

**Environment Correspondent** A campaign to promote the conservation of Britain's oldest

trees is to be launched today by seven landscape, wildlife and

arm, English Nature, say these

trees are misunderstood. They may look as if they are dving but

they have a special place in the country's history and culture.

They are also invaluable to

lichens, insects, fungi and birds.

or more, and a few may have

lasted longer than a millennium.

Often their heartwood has rot-

ted away, leaving a cavern in-

side their great girths and "staghorn", bows, which have

been dead for decades, pro-

jecting into the sky above the liv-

provide shelter and nesting

places for bats, woodpeckers,

tits and fly-catchers. Hundreds

of insect and spider species de-

pend entirely on the large quan-

tities of dead wood found in

Foresters normally fell a

The rot holes and hollows

ing branches.

such veterans.

reason or another.

wood breaking off.

The trees are 500 years old

heritage organisations. The seven, led by the Gov-crament's wildlife conservation

broad-leaf tree within 200 years of the start of its life, because after that the quantity and quality of its usable timber declines. The few found dotted round the country have escaped for one Today they remain threatened, sometimes because they are regarded as senile and ugly and sometimes because land owners fear huge pieces of

Initiative, the seven organisations want to give people advice on how such trees can be made safe. They also want to build up records of where the veterans are found. The initiative is being launched in Windsor Great Park, Berkshire. The choice is

Through the Veteran Trees

apt because the Duke of Edinburgh provoked much anguish and criticism last many veteran oaks lining an avenue in the park were felled precisely because they had become old and twisted.

# nter NHS fertility treatment hit by cash row

Many couples eligible for NHS fertility treatment are missing out because of a dispute be-tween health authorities and GPs over who pays for the fertility drugs they need.

A growing number of health authorities will pay for one or two cycles of in vitro fertilisation (TVF) treatment but not for the drugs necessary to stimulate a woman's ovaries beforehand.

Instead, couples are being referred back to their GPs, many of whom decline to write the prescription on the grounds that the drugs are part of a hospital treatment and not their responsibility.

The couple must pay for the drugs themselves - between £600 and £800 - or forgo the chance of a child, according to Issue, the National Fertility Association. In some cases, the health authority will, under pressure, pick up the bill for the drugs but are forced to ration treatment even further, treating fewer couples overall.

This reduces still further the already miserly provision of NHS fertility treatment. As rationing of healthcare becomes more explicit in the NHS, some health authorities already ban IVF treatment. An 1993 survey found that about half of health authorities did not provide even the most basic treatment.

The situation has worsened since April when genetically-engineered forms of a fertility drug known as Follicie Stimulating Hormone (FSH), became available. This is a purer form of FSH which is between 25-50 per cent more expensive than older drugs which were derived from the urine of pre-

menopausal women. One couple from south-west write a prescription for fertili-ty-drugs, were told in a letter drugs was one of growing confrom the Ealing, Hammersmith

eir first cycle of IVF treatment at the Hammersmith Hospital would be refunded if they paid up front. This offer was then withdrawn and the couple have since been told there is no money left for the second cycle of IVP, to which they are enti-

tled before next April.
"All we got out of the NHS was one treatment cycle and no asked not to be identified. "This ing through all the trauma and upset of treatment." Her husband said the couple would seek private treatment but added: "What happens to the couples who cannot afford

This is like a doctor saying: 'OK, you have cancer, we can cure you – but not unless you buy the drugs'

this?" Mr and Mrs D have spent £1,000 so far on drug

Tim Hedgley, a spokesman for Issue said it was an "absolutely crazy" situation which the group is very concerned about as it hears of more reports from around the country. "...it is like a doctor saying to you 'OK, you have cancer, we can cure it but not unless you buy the drugs yourself.' Infertility is a medical condition and should be treated as one," Mr Hedg-

Dr Grant Blair of the Lillie Road Surgery in Fulham who London whose GP would not treated Mr and Mrs D, said the medico-legal problem." Pro-write a prescription for fertili- issue of prescribing fertility fessor Killick said that one op-tividrugs, were told in a letter drugs was one of growing contion was to take money from the cern for the profession.

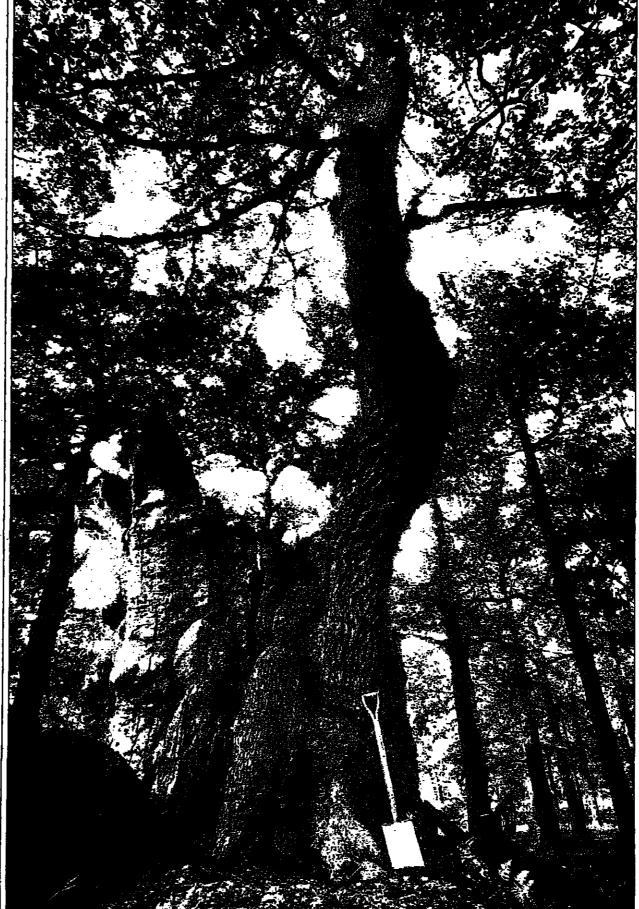
ity that the cost of the FSH for these couples. But there are two issues at stake. The Department of Health advises us not to prescribe drugs unless we are go-ing to be clinically responsible for them. But these treatments are part of an intensive hospital treatment. It is 'community dumping' [shifting the cost from the hospital budget to the com-

> The British Medical Association last week advised GPs that sub-fertility treatment should not be considered a "core service" - a treatment they are obliged to provide. Instead, where GPs were willing to become involved in this speciality, they should seek specific contracts with, and extra pay-

ment from health authorities In a letter to Mr and Mrs D. Julie Dent, Executive Director of the Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow Health Authority confirmed that it had contracted with Hammersmith Hospital for IVF treatment in 1995/96 excluding the drugs "on the as-sumption that GPs would prescribe them..."

However, Ms Dent wrote: "...as the year has progressed it has become increasingly clear that many GPs are not willing to prescribe the drugs for clin-ical reasons...In addition, the actual cost of the drugs charged by the drug companies has al-most doubled since April causing further problems."

director of the Hull IVF Unit, which has just negotiated with the East Riding Health Authority for it to fund fertility treatment on the NHS, including IVF, said the drug issue was a problem. "We have included the drugs in the treatment contract in our case but it does mean we can't treat as many patients," he said. "I am sympathetic to GPs, it's a complicated primary care budget and give it



Age concern: An oak, thought to be 600 years old, in Windsor Great Park

Photograph: David Rose

But its sound exceeds all expectation.

# It doesn't look or act like any hi-fi system.

Bose introduces an easier, more convenient way to enjoy hi-fi sound - the Acoustic Wave" music system. Small and lightweight, the system is exceptionally easy to operate. There are no cables to connect. No dials to adjust. Just plug it in and start enjoying pure stereo sound. The credit card-sized remote control allows you to command all functions at the touch of a button.

A complete system lies within.

Enjoy more sound. Just press play. It may look simple, but this is really a highly advanced, complete sound system. With two equalizers, three amplifiers, three speakers, an AM/FM stereo tuner and a multi-function CD player. The heart of the system, however, is Bose's patented Acoustic Waveguide® speaker technology which, like a flute, enriches the sound through a long, intricately folded tube.

Unexpectedly lifelike sound.

No other compact sound system comes closer to giving you the emotional impact of a live performance. With the Acoustic Waves music system, you'll hear lifelike, natural tones and the distinct sound of every instrument and

voice. The bass remains rich and full, at all volume levels. Not only will you enjoy music more, you even may find you enjoy music more often.

> Only available direct from Bose. You won't find the Acoustic Waves music system in any shop. For a free information pack, simply call freephone or send/fax the coupon below. Or to audition the system in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, call Bose direct:

#### 0800 022 044

Name			34.5
Name			Mc/
TeL			
Address			
	Post	code	
	an envelope t		

#### and Hounslow Health Author-"I have huge sympathy for to infertility clinics. Sex and drugs and rock and roll can't stop Liam looking back in anger

We could have put money on it, although the odds would have been so short as to preclude making much of a profit. Liam Gallagher, the surly lead singer for the drearily predictable offence (allegedly) of possessing

"Police sources" quoted in the tabloids yesterday said that Liam was stopped in Oxford Street at 7.25 on Saturday morning by policemen who saw "an unkempt man obviously the worse for wear". The police are now testing the contents of two packages and Liam, re-leased on bail, is due to return to the police station on 30 De-

The singer, now 24, has con-formed perfectly to rock-star type so far, making millions, smashing up hotel rooms, moving in with a blonde starlet (herself a veteran pop wife), lunging at the paparazzi, fighting with his older brother and fellow Oa-sis member, Noel, vandalising music awards and flashing two fingers at the tabloid press.

As the editor of Music Week Steve Redmond, comments: " think it would be news if Liam wasn't arrested for possessing

The brothers Gallagher have earned the devotion of milhons for their homage to the music of the Beatles - some might say for ripping off the Fab Four and updating them for the Nineties - and, of course, John and Paul had well-documented brushes with the law over their fondness for illegal substances.

But where the Sixties' drug culture was mostly associated with attempting to expand one's mind, Liam is trying to assess thetise his unhappiness and anger or so says Oliver James, clinical psychologist with an interest in celebrity and its affects. The Gallagher story he says, is based on a childhood dealing with erratic parents who reacted inconsistently to ball behaviour, sometimes punishing it and sometimes laughing act. Thus, the expression of anger or disculture was mostly associated.

the expression of anger or dis-

Just another man behaving badly, or someone whose childhood pain is exacerbated by his sudden wealth and fame? Emma Daly

reports on the star without an emotional oasis



Wild child: Psychologists claim Liam Gallagher's antics are

approval escalated constantly in a household where the young Gallaghers were self-confessed delinquents. After a while, Mr James says: "A shout no longer works, so you have to thump

him, and then you have to thump him hard. Life with Oasis, as described by their former road panager, Ian Robertson, in Waa's me Story? involves endless bickering punctuated by appalling rows, Mr James says. He quotes Noel: "How often do we argue? Every day, hourly," and the boys member, Peggy, who says fights between her sons can start about the most trivial

Liam's life, Mr James maintains, came when he was 11 and saw Noel, then 17, thrashing their drunken, violent father, Thomas. Peggy and the boys moved out that day, and Liam became the apple of his mother's eye. "We were especially close," she has said, adding that Liam "wanted to be noticed", in contrast with his in-trospective brother (who writes

problems are compounded by

sis, he is the first one. They weren't around for the Beatles an attempt to anaesthetise anger Photograph: John Gunion and the Stones. Liam is the orig inal for them. That detached things". The defining point in critical mature view applied to Oasis is just irrelevent ... The fact he is not doing it for the first time is only important to people who are old and probably

> Liam "was never wrong - in his view, anyway". Mr James adds that Liam's Noel, whom the psychologist de- er kind for a man like Liam.

But which lesson of history will Liam follow? Mr James sees the likelihood of the singer committing suicide. An alternative model might be that he adopts an eastern mystic as the songs), Peggy adds that guru, introduces non-traditional instruments to the next album marries, has children and invites

scribes as intelligent but savage. He famously acknowledged that: "I will never forgive Liam

for being born."

Questions about Liam elicit

a sign of resignation from Capital Radio's Neil "Doctor" Fox.

"The more people report it, the

more he'll do it. He's only 24, he's got £10 million in the bank.

he thinks he can do what he

likes," says the host of the Pep-

si Chart Show, warning that those fans beyond the hard-core

will soon be bored of his antics.

He also feels sorry for Liam (who never actually seems to en-

joy anything he does). "None of

us have any idea what sort of pressures there are on some-

body like him. He's only a young guy and it's happened so quickly that one day he's going

to come down to earth with a

shock; certainly in a world where no publicity is bad, Oa-

sis has cornered a useful PR

niche. His antipathy to Noel does seem to extend beyond the

usual sibling rivalry; as Neil Fox

points out: "That's why the

music is so good".

To Steve Redmond, Liam is

just enacting "classic rock-star

behaviour", and he chastises the thirtysomething critics who

complain of having seen it all

before. "For the kids buying Oa-

Perhaps Liam wants only to

big bang."

# Lords to sabotage

Howard's crime Bill

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Michael Howard's Bill on tougher sentencing came under renewed fire vesterday as the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, warned of a looming parliamentary revolt to ensure judges retained the right to do justice in individual cases.

He also feared the planned changes to the parole system were a recipe for "unhappiness and challenge" in jails.
In his first television inter-

view, Lord Bingham, England's senior judge, gave notice of the coming rebellion against the Home Secretary's Crime (Sentences) Bill in the House of Lords, insisting that judges should not be obliged to pass a mandatory sentence if they considered it "unjust".

The Bill proposes mandatory minimum terms of three years for adult third time burglars and seven years for adult dealers in class A drugs, and indeterminate life sentences for second-time violent or sex-

Some judges have warned of the futility of having no choice but to imprison for seven years an inadequate addict who sells small amounts of ecstasy or cocaine to fund their own habit. Major traffickers regularly re-

ceive higher sentences already. Speaking in the wake of criticisms by former Tory Home Secretaries Kenneth Baker and Douglas Hurd on the Bill's Commons Second Reading last week. Lord Bingham said on BBC 1's Breakfast With Frost that provisions for judges to depart from the sentences where there were "exceptional" circumstances did not meet critics' concerns "at all". Invoking existing legislation on suspended sentences with the same wording, Lord Bingham said judges had felt they must interpret the words narrowly.

Psychiatric problems, financial pressures and family difficulties tid not count as "exceptional".

Indicating the minimum concession Mr Howard would need to buy off a Lords' rebellion, he said: "It would mitigate the difficulty if the Bill provided that a judge should not be obliged to pass a mandatory sentence if he considered it in all the circumstances unjust to do so."

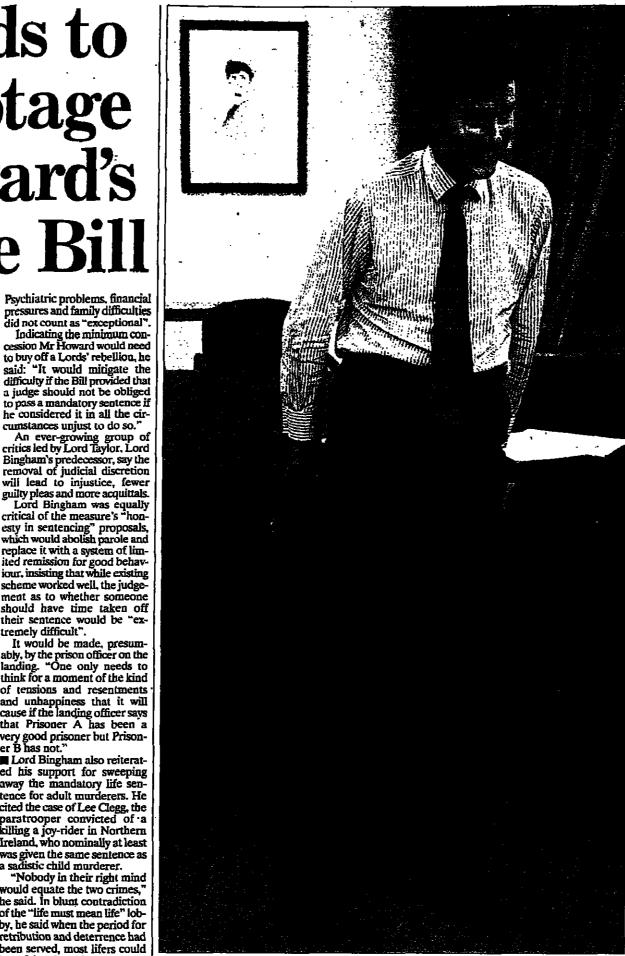
An ever-growing group of critics led by Lord Taylor, Lord Bingham's predecessor, say the removal of judicial discretion will lead to injustice, fewer guilty pleas and more acquittals. Lord Bingham was equally critical of the measure's "honesty in sentencing" proposals, which would abolish parole and replace it with a system of limited remission for good behaviour, insisting that while existing scheme worked well, the judgement as to whether someone should have time taken off their sentence would be "extremely difficult".

landing. "One only needs to think for a moment of the kind of tensions and resentments and unhappiness that it will cause if the landing officer says that Prisoner A has been a very good prisoner but Prisoner B has not." ■ Lord Bingham also reiterated his support for sweeping

It would be made, presum-

away the mandatory life sentence for adult murderers. He cited the case of Lee Clegg, the paratrooper convicted of a killing a joy-rider in Northern Ireland, who nominally at least was given the same sentence as a sadistic child murderer.

"Nobody in their right mind would equate the two crimes," he said. In blunt contradiction of the "life must mean life" lobby, he said when the period for retribution and deterrence had been served, most lifers could be safely released.



Fighting talk: the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell Photograph: John Voos

# Dorrell takes the bloody battle for a healthy NHS to Labour's door

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Stephen Dorrell is on a roll. Having won a real-terms increase on his health budget of around £500 million, he will set out this week to put Labour on the defensive on the health service with a White Paper committing the Tories to funding it from taxation.
"A Service With Ambitions"

will give the strongest commit-ment ever by the Conservatives to the NHS since it was founded by the Labour Attlee government 50 years ago. It will carry a personal endorsement by the Prime Minister staking out the Tories' "wholehearted" commitment to the founding principles of the NHS as "part of the fabric of Britain".

It also stakes out Mr Dorrell's position firmly on the left of centre of the Tory party for the time when the leadership election takes place. He told The Independent in an exclusive interview that the NHS White Paper would say that the health service was affordable as a taxbased system, and he rejects right-wing suggestions that it should be limited to a safety net

for the poor.

An influential right-wing think tank, the Adam Smith Institute, recently suggested in a report that the NHS should have a "core curriculum" of provision. Items, such as ear grommets, which fall outside the core should no longer be available on the NHS. The aim would be to make ends meet in the NHS by limiting the scope of the service available by

It goes to the heart of the controversy over Child B - the cancer sufferer denied treatment on the NHS. She received it through a benefactor, but subsequently died. Mr Dorrell says rationing - he calls it "prioritizing" - will be part of his White Paper, but he rejects the ASI approach. "I don't buy the core curriculum idea at all. It is very close to saying the NHS is a not going to uproof the man-

A White Paper: will give the Tories' strongest commitment to

safety net. That is the opposite of what I want to do. This White Paper sets out my commitment to the delivery of universal health care, high-quality care and available on the basis of need. These three principles I regard as being founding prin-ciples of the NHS and explicit-ly not a safety net service." He has rejected the advice of a close friend, John Maples, a

former minister, who advised John Major to keep the NHS out of the news in the run-up to the general election.

Labour are not going to uproot the management reforms that are in place'

Mr Dorrell believes that strategy was falsely based on his opponents' perceptions of the Tories on health. He is taking the battle to Labour on its strongest issue: he recently published a White Paper on creating a primary care-led NHS; a bill implementing the plans to give family doctors more freedom to widen their services is shortly to be introduced in the Lords; and a second primary care White Paper will be published in December to give it an-

other boost.
This week's NHS White Paper is part of a wider strategy for stealing Labour's thunder on the NHS. "We have had five years where we have argued about managing the service. and that's an argument that is essentially over. Labour are place. It's a chapter that is

What I am seeking to do is to look forward to the development of health care over the

the health service: directly two questions that it is said politicians will not confront: whether the health service is affordable, and, as a tax-based system, the need to set out

priorities.
"The NHS - far from being a problem in affordability - by international standards, is the best answer to that problem."

Priority-setting is not new, he says. The Guillebaud committee in 1952 - the year Mr Dorreli was born - admitted the NHS could not afford to do everything without "very considerable additional expenditure". Finite resources have been chasing infinite demand ever since.

Being a wily politician, Mr Dorrell is not about to start playing God by advising the doctors on what should be available on the NHS. The Amencan state of Oregon tried that, but he rejects it. The White Paper will not be prescriptive. It will set out the parameters of what the NHS should be doing. and leave it to clinicians to

Critics, including the crossparty select committee on health, say this has led to a patchwork developing in the NHS, with some treatments, such as IVF, available free on the NHS in some areas and not in others. The application of the principles to a specific patient must always be the responsibility of a patient's clinician. Otherwise it will undermine that relationship.

21....

6.01

<u>ن</u> . . . .  $|\mathcal{F}_{t}(n)| \leq \varepsilon$ 

li you're locking

company's full

Sixing you fast

g simble anapair

THE

"But the clinician is entitled to expect that the system provides a framework for making clinical miérities."

Labour may always win on the NHS. But Mr Dorrell does not intend to let Chris Smith, his Labour shadow, have a

Buying a computer for the first time or as a seasoned technology expert, decisions are always made by the head and the wallet and seldom the heart.

The fact is that a Compaq computer is often the heart's desire of any computer buyer, for home or office. So now, with a little help from Technology Online, one of the UK's

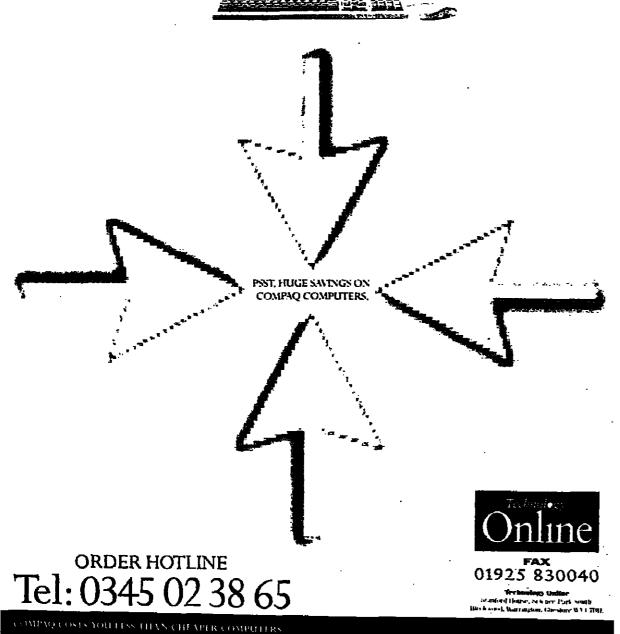




largest Compaq dealers, your heart's desire is now priced to suit every wallet and still be a decision your head will be happy with.

And, as if low prices were not enough, Technology Online will add a CareFREE 36, 3 year on site warranty absolutely FREE.

Three years' complete peace of mind and quality of PC which could only he Compaq. Compaq Deskpro 2000 5120 M1080, Insel Pratings® 120-MHz ur, 256 Kli cache, I-GB bard drive, 16-MR memory plus Compay 140, 14" SVGA mentior.



1 1) we color raid while stock left Photograph doors if months, poor quoted return to question. If months a preprint makenesis of incidences of incidences of incidences.

#### Change to Interest Rates

With effect from start of business on 11th November 1996 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum+ GROSS % GROSS C.A.R.%

#### Business Interest Cheque Account

Instant Access Cheque Account							
£250,000+	2.95	2.98					
£100,000-249,999	2.80	2.83					
£50,000-99,999	2.30	2.32					
£10,000-49,999	1.95	1.96					
£2,000-9,999	1.70	1.71					
£1-1.999	1.20	1.21					

Schools Banking Account

4-25	4-3

3-50

Capital Reserve Account**					
£250,000+	4.92	5.01			
£100,000-249,999	4.60	4.68			
£50,000-99,999	4.10	4.16			
£10,000-49,999	3.80	3.85			
£2,000-9,999	3.50	3.55			

#### Practice Call Account t.

£1-1,999

		_
£100,000+	4.50	4.58
£50,000-99,999	4.25	4.32
£10,000-49,999	4.00	4.06
£2,000-9,999	2.50	2,52
£1-1,999	1.00	1-00





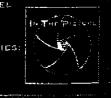
STUDENT PHQTQGRAPHIC COMPETITION **OVER £2000** 

IN PRIZES TO BE WON For rules of entry and an JESSOP PHOTO/VIDEO CENTRE

all branches of STA TRAVEL

or ting (0116) 232 0033

call (0171) 361 6166 CLOSING BATE FOR ENTRIES: 15/11/96



# Charity calls for end to rape victims' ordeal

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Rape victims suffer harassment by defendants and their friends or families, threats to their children, damage to property and can feel compelled to move home to escape persecution, the charity Victim Support says in research published today.

The study, based on a survey of 92 Victim Support schemes and 17 court-based Witness Services which helped 1,500 rape victims in 1995, shows that despite years of cam-

rape victims, they are still hampered in obtaining information about the progress of their cases and face what they view as unacceptable ordeals under cross-examination in the court-

home. Thirteen per cent knew

of women who had received threats to their children and 7

per cent reported victims whose

Many women did not re-

ceive even the most basic in-

formation about their case,

their alleged attacker had been

released on bail. This is despite

the announcement by Barbara Mills, the Director of Public

year that victims would always

be consulted about bail deci-

sions.

The survey paints a bleak picture of the stress still faced by

victims over delay, or when court dates are abruptly

changed - often just before tri-

al. Dismay over lack of contact

with prosecuting counsel is also

a recurring theme of the report.

schemes said women continued

to be disturbed by cross-exam-

ination by defence counsel,

with some victims saying it

amounted to character assassi-

nation or that the trial was

Setting out a series of rec-

ommendations, Helen Reeves,

the charity's director, said: "This

survey confirms the difficulties

which women face in trying to

obtain justice. Many are too

frightened to seek help from the

police in case they risk further

harassment from the defen-

"In court, many women re-

port feeling humiliated and

intimidated during cross-ex-

The report follows the call by

Ray White, the new president

of the Association of Chief Po-

lice Officers, for curbs on in-

timidations of witnesses and

aggressive cross-examination

by barristers. In a recent stalk-

ing case, defence counsel ac-

cused a woman of behaving like

amination. But even then, con-

victions are rare. Women need

system can be restored.

even worse than the rape.

More than 40 per cent of the

A third of the schemes taking part in the survey said they had helped victims who had been re-assaulted or harassed since the original attack.
Of these, 33 per cent reported

contact with victims who had been intimidated by the friends

# I feel like I was sold out by the system itself?

Mary, one of the 11 victims who was too old to give evidence gave Victim Support their per- from behind a screen. sonal testimonies, was present-ed with a request to agree to a last-minute guilty plea when her case got to court - but only to a lesser charge of indecent assault, writes Patricia Wynn

She felt the Criminal Prosecution Service had assured her that he would still receive a custodial sentence, but he got a fine, "an utter insult", she said. She was also subjected to the man's plea in mitigation, which was reported in the local press as if it was evidence, and included defence counsel's statement that she had been "round the block". She said: "I feel like I was sold out by the system itself. I felt really let down."

For Paula, the victim of a gang attack, the trauma came during the police investigation is taken away from you when when instead of looking you are raped is repeated:" through one-way glass at the identification parade, she had to confront each defendant face to face. "One of them spoke to me her living room window after and said he was sorry - that up-set me even more," she said.

She was assaulted after the court case by a girlfriend of one of the defendants. A fortnight later a family member of one of the defendants found her address and harassed her. She was not offered protection. Although she was only 15 at the time of the trial she was told she coped without Victim Support.

Jenny still has mixed feelings about reporting her rape. She described the medical examination as "horrendous" and learned that the defendant had got bail through reading it the paper. She got mixed up when giving her evidence. The man had a gun but was described as "the perfect gentleman" by his character witnesses. He was

Ruth was another victim faced with down-grading of charges at the 11th hour, despite the police surgeon's opinion that it was one of the most brutal assaults he had seen. "The policeman walked up

and said 'Is it yes?' I felt that I had no option," she said. "I feel that victims are just not represented in court. The control that Sarah, who is registered more protection, at every stage blind, moved house after a of the investigation and trial, be-

dustbin was thrown through fore confidence in the justice someone she knew was convicted of raping her. Before the trial, the prosecution barrister warned her that the defence might imply that she was pursuing the case in order to make a claim for criminal injuries

Like the other interviewees, she said she could not have

## Cycle scheme rivals on path to conflict Carlton Reid and Christian Wolmar



Twin-track proposal: The new Bristol-Bath track may soon have competition Photograph: Christopher Jones

First there was canal fever, then railway fever and now there's cycle path fever. With Sustrans, the cycle network charity, well into building its 6,500 mile network across the country, a rival

private project for another network is to

be launched later this month with support from transport ministers.

And just like those previous crazes. the cycle path mania is set to cause bitter rivalry. National Byway will be a 3,000mile cycle trail on existing minor roads and is the brainchild of Alan Rushton, the race organiser who brought the Tour de France to Britain two years ago.

Rushton and his company, Sport for Television Ltd, have been negotiating sponsorship deals for the route for the past 18 months and the project will be launched on 20 November at a press conference attended by John Bowys, the junior transport minister.

5 Vin

Gull

othe

orcal

crast

Japai

Turk

rast of

i Ara

cillint

emen

2. Th

As well as commercial sponsorship Rushton has also secured man and guidebook provision by AA Publications. Much to the delight of transport ministers, the initiative involves no government funding. Sustrans was awarded £42.5m from the Millennium Fund last year.
While National Byway will be a non-

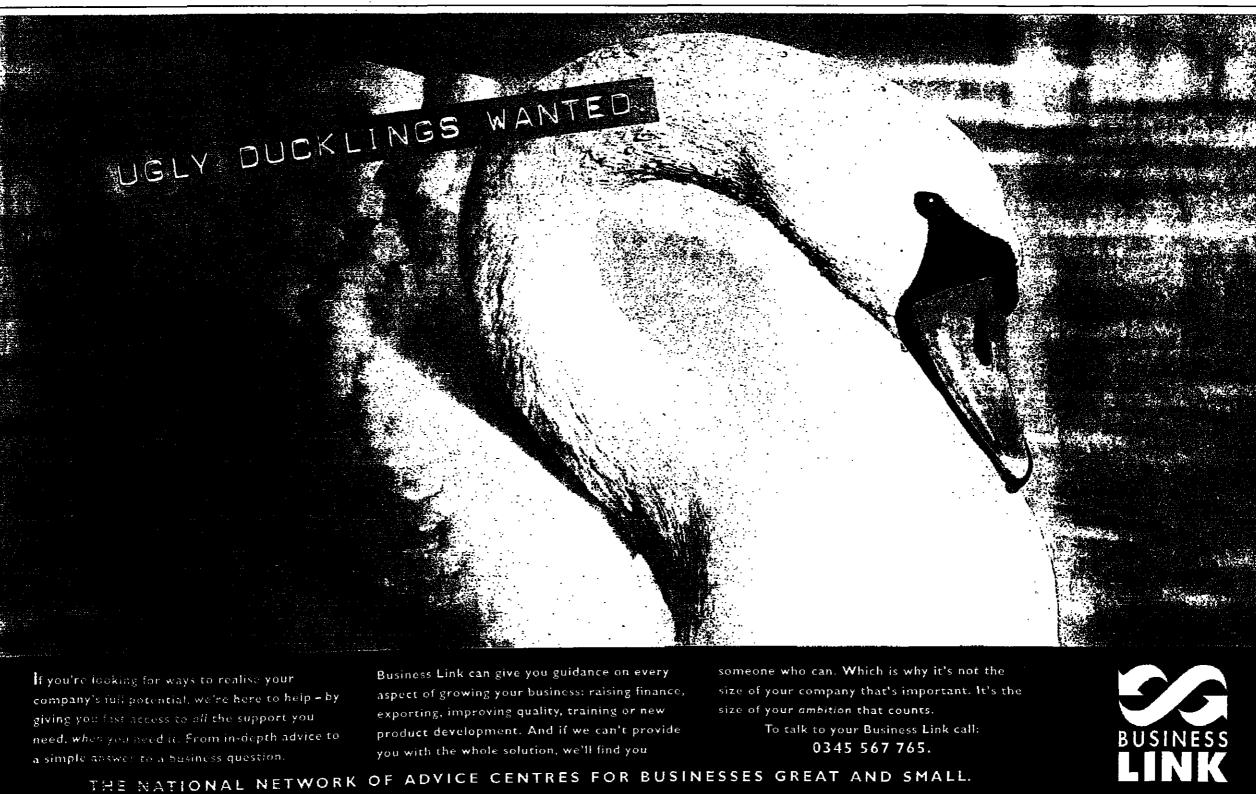
profit-making organisation, it will pay a fee to Mr Rushton. National Byway has support from the Department of Transport, the Rural Development Commission, the Countryside Commission, and the British Tourist Authority, Private sponsors include Canon, Chrysler, Raleigh and Hovis, the piggest, which will contribute at least Sustrans was not told of the project

until September and were surprised not to have been informed earlier. Indeed, cycling groups are concerned that the new project is misleading because cyclists will find few facilities on the routes. The new network which starts and ends in Winchester and links 1.000 "secondary heritage sites" - Sustrans already connect most main sites throughout the UK is little more than a signposting project as the roads, unlike those used by Sustrans, will not be traffic-calmed. One cycling source said: This is not a proper cycle network. Cars will be able to go fast and this poses a danger. If Mr Rushton were really interested in improving the lot of cyclists, he would have worked with Sustrans, not as a rival."

Alan Kind, chief executive of the Byways and Bridleways Trust said: "It's like waiting for a bus. No cycle provisions for years and then two rival routes come along at once."

Mr Kind is sceptical about the project. He says: "The Byway proposal needs careful thought. Ministers must love it as it is a national scheme costing no money, but what will happen when the Byway crosses busy A roads?" He suggests that alterations will have to be made to the road network, in line with those on the Sustrans network, and that will eventually require government spending.

The difference in approach by Sustrans and National Byway can perhaps best be illustrated by the fact that National Byway will be using donated Chrysler Jeeps to carry out surveys while Sustrans continue to use its collection of folding bikes.



Business support services for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can be contacted through the Business Link number

European ruling: Government hoping for concessions as EU court set to give employees minimum rights to time off and holidays

# Working hours ruling to launch wave of claims

Barrie Clement and Anthony Bevins

The Government is set to face a wave of legal action on behalf of millions of workers over the rking time directive.

Ministers will act quickly to implement the law on the 48hour week if, as expected, the European Court upholds the validity of the directive tomorrow. But they cannot possibly meet the 23 November legal deadline for enactment of the directive, set three years after a European Union Employment Council

pushed through the provision. The Government challenged the directive in the European Court, arguing that it should not have been dressed up as a health and safety measure.

John Major says it was agreed at Maastricht that social olicy should not be smuggled nto law under health and safety provisions and he is demanding a further treaty change to rectify the expected judgment. But in spite of weekend reports that Jacques Chirac. he French President, was sympathetic to Mr Major's complaint, the British are not expected to have many allies.

may not be all bad for Britain. There were signs that the defeat could be softened by concessions. The European Commission appeared yesterday to be anticipating demands from the court for the directive to be

The TUC pointed out yesterday that the working time directive's provisions on holidays would have the most direct and widespread impact in the British labour market.

One in eight British workers - most of them part-timers and women - could benefit from new rights to paid annual leave. There were no exceptions to such provisions unlike the clauses dealing with a 48-hour week.

Official figures showed that almost 2.5 million employees enjoyed no paid holidays, 4.1 million less than three weeks and 5.9 million less than four weeks. The directive introduces a three week legal minimum, increasing to four weeks after

Millions of others will receive new rights to a 48-hour week. Among the exceptions, however, are executives, transport employees, sea fishermen and doctors in training. For those in-dustries affected by the law there are provisions for flexible application through collective bargaining and scope for employers to persuade their workers to agree to work for longer

Trade unions are to launch court proceedings on behalf of public sector workers and employees in the privatised utilichance of successful court action under the directive.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the country's largest union, said yesterday that it would take action on behalf of individuals "disadvantaged" by Britain's failure to implement the directive on time. Unison is targeting night workers, people who work shifts, part-time workers and those with no entitlement to annual leave.

Roger Lyons, leader of white collar and technical union MSF, said that his organisation would

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the Government's appeal against the directive was based on "a narrow-minded resistance to



Time for change: Women clocking on in Manchester in the 1950s. Under EU rules they could insist on a maximum 48-hour we

# COFFEE

Minas, Brazil, 1996. A coffee plantation worker toils in 80 degree heat to earn 56p an hour. It's not enough but it's better than nothing. Nothing is what he earned last week when bad weather stopped the harvest. Nothing is what he will earn for the next eight months, when the season is over.

A family is paid a pittance for an 11 hour day.

A child of 6 is taken from school to work in the harvest season.

A man breaks a leg in transit to

work, but gets no compensation. This is one side of the coffee industry in Brazil today.

Underneath that heady aroma there's something that doesn't

smell so good.

And it's not just coffee. There are heart-rending stories of exploitation behind produce like vegetables, fruit, nuts, flowers, even prawns.

The details vary from country to country, but the themes are consistent enough: low pay, unfair dismissal, tin-shack housing, child labour.

It makes you sad, it makes you angry, it makes you want to do something. Well you can.

#### Why not a boycott?

A boycott isn't the answer because it can make things even worse for the growers and pickers by taking away the market. And in any case, you can't always tell by looking which products involve exploitation and which don't.

The answer is actually more inspiring: it's to encourage your" supermarket to ensure fair pay and conditions for the producers of all the goods it sells.

#### Change the rules

Supermarkets have astonishing financial muscle. Some British chains have incomes bigger than the entire economies of Third World nations. When that kind of money talks, people listen.

Supermarkets are increasingly sensitive to social issues, and they care what their customers think. So let them know you want them to help change the rules of global trade.

#### The Supermarkets Third World Charter

The first step is to ask your local supermarket to embrace the Supermarkers Third World Charter, which aims for fair prices and conditions all the way along the production chain.

Send the coupon or call us at Christian Aid for an information pack that shows you the simple action you can take next time you shop.

"I wake up at five o'clock. We only stop for 15 minutes. There are no more breaks till the end of the day." The words are those of a coffee worker in Brazil. By making your supermarket listen to you, you're making them listen to her, and to millions of people like her throughout the Third World.

Send the coupon now or call us on 0345 000 300

I want to know what action to take. Please send me the information pack. Send the coupon to: Christian Aid. Freepost MR8192, Manchester M1 9AZ

# Why British stand is just political charade

Opposition to minimal rights doomed from the start

In June 1993, David Hunt, then Minister for Employment. walked out of a Luxembourg council room to tell the the BBC that he had secured a victory for Britain in the heated negotiaconsover about Editoricantales on working hours.

He boasted that the teeth of the directive had been drawn. More than three years later, Britain is struggling to extract the same troublesome molar.

The long battle over directive 93/104/EC, setting rules for a naximum 48 hour workii week, as well as paid holiday and breaks, is another example of a doomed British campaign to prevent European integration.

This campaign has been especially inglorious as the batleground has been a directive which does little more than offer some workers the right to a decent amount of time off. Furthermore, in its desperation to stand tough in the face of likely defeat tomorrow, the Government has been spreading more and more disinformation about the way the directive was negotiated and its

claimed threat to jobs. The working hours directive was first proposed in 1990 as part of a tranche of provisions. Britain made a political point of opposing it as too costly for employers. The reality was there was nothing the Government as those employed in transport

could do to stop the measure and junior doctors. Furtherbecause it had no veto.

The Commission proposed the directive under a health and safety provision of the treaty by qualified majority voting. As so often happens, therefore Britain set out to try and claw back powers, which in had already signed away. The best the Government

could hope to do was to water down the directive as it was being negotiated and this ministers successfully did. By the time the law was ready for signing in November 1992, so many con-Hunt was able to declare it "toothless". Britain did not even vote against the directive, it abstained, while promising a legal challenge on the grounds that working hours were not a

matter of health and safety. The Government today presents the directive as a measure which forces all countries to pass laws obliging employers to fix a maximum 48-hour working week. Small factories will be closing down up and down the country, it is claimed.
In fact, every member state

has a large degree of flexibility in how they implement the directive. If a particular government wants to interpret the directive to ensure all workers work a maximum of 48 hours a week, it can do so. It can also exclude groups of workers, such

more, the 48-hour rule can be "voluntary". If a particular

workforce agrees to work more need not apply. The 48-hour a a period of up to a year. As the working hours directive was being finalised in 1992, the Maastricht negotiations

were coming to completion and Britain won its opt out from the social chapter. The working hours directive had nothing to do with the social chanter, having been proposed two years earlier under the separate health and safety provision. Yet today, as they demonise Brussels, the Euro-sceptics, en-

BIN, 1 1

ΪΣ.:".

Although the property of the party of the pa

training.

Takes to the

Che and the

hand green

Dental Comment of the

Berger Control

**≥** 

LN and

Gentle ::::

published Trees.

p low I II ...

CAMPAIN AND PARTY OF A

hyper and livery is sequented to be a property of the control of t

re-banch the  $\mu_{k+1}$ 

**阿佐 1. ...** 

Mar. 1 ( ...

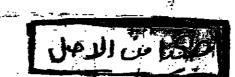
EL C.

couraged by the Government, outrageously suggest that enacting the working hours di-rective under article 118a was a ploy to get around Britain's social chapter opt- out. Mr Major may now wish that

he had never launched the legal challenge to the working hours directive, which looks set to produce a European defeat for him in the run-up to the general election.

The court tomorrow may offer Britain a few crumbs, perhaps ruling that some elements of the directive should be further restricted. But it is hard to see that Europe's judges can agree with a government which claims that working hours is not ... a matter of health and safety.





Military records show the efforts of under-age volunteers to get on the front line

Clare Garner

off and holice

tandi

As the nation today observes an unprecedented third twominute silence on Armistice Day itself - as opposed to the Sunday closest to 11 November - military records revealing the horrors and heroism of the First World War are being released by the Public Records

The first batch of enlistment, medical and discharge records of the 1914-18 war come into the public domain in a year when an unprecedented three national silences have been observed to remember those who died for their country - the first, at the Royal Legion's Festival of Remembrance on Saturday night, the second, the traditional ceremony at Whitehall yesterday, and the third, today's.

The released service documents reveal evidence of the lengths to which under-age volunteers went in order to get past army recruiters and onto the front line. One such case was 15year-old Pte George Alfred Redrup. He was so desperate to defend his country that he led a double life. Pte Redrup, of Prestwood, Buckinghamshire, managed to join two regiments at the heart of the fighting and earn himself the 1914-15 Star and the Victory Medal, before dving at the age of 19.

Until now, the medal roll has shown Pte Redrup as two separate soldiers with the same name," said Simon Fowler, the exhibition officer at the Public Records Office at Kew, west London. "The army does not seem to have realised that the two entries refer to the same

Only 40 per cent of the nation's service documents have survived. Many were destroyed



Proud tribute: Ian Whitelaw, of Newcastle upon Tyne, with the HMS Euralus Association at yesterday's ceremony in Whitehall, London

building in which they were an "enormously significant" stored was bombed. Threequarters of those which survived are fire-damaged and therefore not being released at present.

event. The 750,000 or so files could, they say, change people's understanding of the war. But Dr Francisco Romero-Salvado, Some historians have hailed a lecturer in modern Euroin 1940, when the London today's release of documents as pean history at London Guild-

hall University, whose thesis is on the First World War, doubts the documents will add much to scholarship unless they reveal that under-age volunteers were desperate to join the war in 1917-18.

"We know there was this great heroism, patriotism and movement of masses trying to get conscripted in 1914," said Dr Romero-Salvado. "It would,

that these people below-age to sign up still wanted to go and fight in the later stages of the

however, be shocking if the vic at all. It was almost a mira-

Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou

added, be shocking to find evidence of volunteers younger The British Legion, which has

led a campaign for a revival of

11th month - the time at which the First World War ended in 1918 - believes that more people than for many years observed the two-minute silence at 11am yesterday.

Since the Second World War, the Sunday nearest November 11 - rather than the date itself - has been the day when the Royal Family and political leaders have led the nation in silent tribute to those who gave their lives for their country.

sm kille

en an Air

red off the

in the top

tary cam

USS Vin

ı Iran Ai

the Gult

. Koreai

it down b

ling 20°

st crasi n a Japat

7 crasher

. A Turk

ribeast o

4. killin

audi Ara

ed, killim

an emer

th airport

ے: DC-1

in Chica

-air coll:

ash of p

a air forc

cilled 15

1992. Th

assenger

axing 74-

parachus

'OU

MUM

, 1979.

othe

David France, director of the Legion's Armistice Day silence campaign, said: "When we started the campaign last year many firms said they found out too late and did not realise the extent of support. This time supermarkets and other leading firms have been telling us that they intend to announce the silence on their premises on both Sunday and Monday.

The Queen Mother, who is 96, was said to be "very disap-

#### The 750,000 or so files could change people's understanding of the war

pointed" that a chill kept her away from the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall yesterday.

Meanwhile, two members of the last Labour government have launched a campaign to make Second World War poetry part of the National

Lord Healey and Lord Merlyn Rees believe the standard of The Voice of War, a collection of the best poems from the Second World War published this week, is so good it ought to be studied in schools.

"This is the authentic voice of war," said Lord Healey. the war." It would also, he "This was a grass roots war and the poems are a poignant reflection of what happened. It would be marvellous if today's students were given the chance the Armistice Day silence on the of studying them."

# How Herbie's Nazi past was unearthed

Herbie has been exposed as a Nazi. The Volkswagen Beetle, animated in children's films and adored by Sixties hippies and the rave generation alike, was created at the behest of Adolf Hitler.

Volkswagen staffed its production lines with Jewish inmates of Auschwitz concentration camp and Russian pris-The company contributed

bombs and vehicles for the Nazi war effort and made parts for the V1 buzzbombs that blitzed Britain. The unpalatable past of one of the world's most loved cars

has been uncovered in a 10-year trawl through German archives by two of the country's leading historians. Last week, to the embar-

rassment of many Volkswagen executives, the results were published. They could barely have come at a worse time. In 1998, VW is planning to

re-launch the Beetle. The company is also involved in massive investment in Israel, where it is setting up a \$600m manganese plant. And David Herman, Yet it was Volkswagen's own

idea to commission the research. The authors, Hans Mommsen and Manfred Grieger, were paid by the company to write an independent history of VW during Nazi times.

The project forms part of a trend among Germany's oldest and biggest companies to bare their souls in an attempt to exorcise the demons of their pasts. Jewish pressure groups, in-cluding the Holocaust Educa-

tional Trust, have been demanding that the compa-nies make an admission of their complicity with the Nazi The trust is particularly angry that Dresdner Bank, which

owns Kleinwort Benson, the British investment bank, has not done enough to apologise for its close relationship with the SS and the Nazi party. By contrast, Deutsche Bank

hired five independent historians to write a corporate history of the bank, which detailed its part in Aryanisation and the dispossession of Jewish property, for which it said the



People's car: Adolf Hitler at the inauguration ceremony of the Fallersleben Volkswagen factory in 1938 Photograph: AP

a similar history and has voluntarily paid out more than £6m in compensation to former slave slave labour, working for such

The Third Reich used around 10 million people for

companies as Siemens, Krupp mous with the military desand AEG.

The German courts have now given the slave labourers, mainly from eastern Europe, the right to sue companies like VW for their suffering.

The story of Volkswagen and the Nazis, entitled Volkswagen and its Workers in the Third Reich, could form the basis for

It details how Hitler commissioned the Beetle from car designer Dr Ferdinand Porsche and then ordered the building of Kraft durch Freude Stadt -Strength through Joy Town - to house the production workers.

When war started, the production lines switched to making kubelwagen personnel carriers and schwimmwagen amphibious vehicles. Jonathan Mantle, author of

Car Wars, which analysed twentieth century politics through the eyes of the car companies, said that all car manufacturers had accepted that in times of war they had to strike a deal with the government of the country in which they were operating. "All successful car companies in the first part of the twentieth century have always been synony-

tinies and ambitions of their host country."

He said that General Motors, through its German subsidiary. had contributed to the Nazi war effort and that BMW had been a greater user of slave labour than Volkswagen.

"Daimler Benz were much closer to the Nazi Party and Adolf Hitler than Volkswagen were. The Daimler Benz badge used to hang next to the swastika at rallies.

Mr Mantle said evidence

aggested that disclosures about a car company's shady history were likely to have no influence on potential buyers. His theory is borne out by Britain's own reluctance to take over Volkswagen when the Bee-

lies as part of a package of war reparations; moral decisions never came into it. "It's the most God-awful de-sign I ever saw," said Lord Nuffield, of the British Motor

tle plant was offered to the Al-

Corporation. "All the wrong way round." His colleague Lord Rootes added: "It is quite unattractive to the average buyer. It is too ugly and too noisy.

#### DAILY POEM

#### Portrait of the Town Leonard

By Louise Erdrich

I thought I saw him look my way and crossed my breast before I could contain myself. Beneath those glasses, thick as lead-barred windows. his eyes ran through his head, the double barrels of an old gun, sick on its load, the trigger held in place by one thin metal bow.

Going toward the Catholic church, whose twin white dunce caps speared the clouds for offering, we had to pass him on the poured stone bridge, for nickels we could act as though we'd not been offered stories. How these all turned out we knew, each one, just had the river eats within its course the line of reasoning.

He went, each morning, to the first confession. The sulking curtains bit their lips behind him. Still those in closer pews could hear the sweet and limber sins he'd made up on the spot. I saw a few consider, and take note procedural. They'd try them out at home.

And once, a windless August, when the sun released its weight and all the crops were burned, he kept watch as the river thickened. Land grew visibly and reeked to either side, till windowed hulks, forgotten death cars reared where dark fish leapt, and gaped, and snatched the air.

Louise Erdrich grew up in North Dakota and is of German-American and Chippewa descent. Novelist and poet, published both sides of the Atlantic, her Tales of Burning Love were published this year in the UK. Flamingo released Jacklight, her second poetry collection, from which this poem is taken. last

and get 40% more done today. catewe reassages or taxes and even print out on the carce states forting out how yes could get 40% more out of your day, cell BT Businessconnections on

Freefone 0800 800 800 now.

Freefone 0800 800 800

Work smarter not just harder

Working from Home

# Italy's middle classes unite against taxes

Andrew Gumbel

Any illusions that Italy would find it easy to sell the pain of European integration to its own electorate were definitively shattered this weekend, as more than half a million of the country's conservative middle classes descended on Rome to vent their displeasure at tax increases in the

forthcoming budget.

Heeding the call of the opposition. led by Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister, and Gianfranco Fini of the reformed neo-fascist National Alliance, armies of shopkeepers, small businessmen and low-ranking

professionals converged on the capital from every corner of the country on Saturday afternoon, turning the streets of central Rome into a huge seething tide of people and bright anti-government banners.

No government can work against us," Mr Berlusconi proclaimed to loud cheers in the closing rally. "We are the Italy that goes to work and produces, the industrious, patient and responsible Italy that can decide, if pushed, that it's not going to take it any more.

With parliament due to vote this Thursday on the 1997 budget, an unprecedented austerity package aimed at squeezing Italy into the sin-

word go, the crowd gave a noisy thumbs-down to an array of proposed tax increases including the "Euro-tax", a one-off levy for next year totalling some 12.5 trillion lire Pinocchio, and his government accused of misleading and mismanag-

ing the country. It was an extraordinary gathering, made up of the kind of people who normally sit at home and turn their noses up at the kind of people who

go out on demonstrations. Beneath the impeccably proper surface, however, was a wellspring of

gle European currency from the Poujadist resentment and latent violence. The demonstrators screamed swear words and sexual insults at government ministers and cried for them to be shipped off to Rwanda or the Congo; one small group of un-(£5bn). Romano Prodi, the Prime reconstructed Fascists vowed re-Minister, was depicted in banners as venge for their brothers "murdered by the servants of the state".

Mr Berlusconi himself railed at the "fiscal dictatorship" of the government and happily encouraged slogans depicting him as a victim of the political and judicial establishment. His attitude made clear that the core purpose of the demonstration was purely political: a show of strength by an opposition that had up to now

ing Mr Prodi's six-month-old administration, and support for Mr Berlusconi, as his political career is ever more compromised by corruption and business malpractice

The overwhelming success of the demonstration significantly broadened the issue, however, It proved that the country is still irreconcilably Berlusconi-Fini brand of right-wing populism and the cautious, intellectual pragmatism of Mr Prodi and his struggling Olive Tree coalition. That sense of division, in turn, is a wor-rying portent of the kind of unrest

shown little taste or talent for taunt- Italy could see once the 1997 budget really begins to bite.

The great unmentioned subject of Saturday's rally was Europe, but Europe and the price of entry into monetary union was ultimately what it was all about. The subject went unmentioned because the vast majority of Italians, especially the merchant middle class, still believes in Europe; even Mr Berlusconi could not afford split down the middle between the to disapprove of the austerity budget in itself, so he chose to complain about the preference for tax increases

over spending cuts instead. Sooner or later, though, open hostility to Europe seems likely to surface and with it all the thorniest

issues in Italian politics, particularly the tension between the affluent north and the under-developed south. As the eminent commentator Eugenio Scalfari pointed out yesterday, the 1997 budget is just the beginning and another dose of austerity, probably in the form of cuts in pensions, will come along next year.

"The middle classes will have to choose whether they want to put off our entry into the European Union or else agree to pay the price or it." he wrote, adding that logic must lead them to the latter conclusion. To judge by the mood in Rome on Saturday, logic may not be the prime

United

**Nations** 

# Sexual abuse scandal hits **US Army**

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Five years ago, the Tailhook scandal struck a blow at the US Navy's image from which that service has yet entirely to recover. Now it is the turn of the Army, rocked by a growing scandal of institutionalised sexual abuse and mishehaviour at one of its largest training facilities which is raising basic questions about the place of women in the armed forces.

A stream of revelations over the past four days has sent the US news media flocking to the giant Aberdeen Proving Ground north of Baltimore, in Maryland, where some 11,000 young military personnel, up to 20 per cent of them women. come every year to be instructed in the maintenance and repair of weapons, tanks and other heavy equipment.

If evidence released by the

Questions are now being asked about the basic wisdom of

mixing the sexes in the military

Army is to be believed, however, an equally important skill for the female trainees has been to dodge the attentions of drill intheir status to demand, and on occasion obtain by force, sexual favours from their charges.

So far three drill instructors, including one company commander, have been formally el of suspicion there that accused of offences ranging women cadets have been orfrom rape and forcible sodomy to adultery, which in the US military is a crime. According to the charges one of them threatened his victim with the words, "If a female trainee, anyone finds out about this, I'll

kill you." drawn comparisons with the Tailhook scandal, when the 1991 annual convention of Navy aviators at the Hilton Hotel in weekend. "But that answer dis-Las Vegas degenerated into a regards the nature of our sociveritable Bacchanalia of sexu- ety ... there is no segregation al harassment and abuse that led - ultimately in the defence of our to Congressional hearings and country."

may have contributed to the sui-cide last May of Admiral Jeremy Boorda, the Navy's chief of operations and senior uniformed officer.

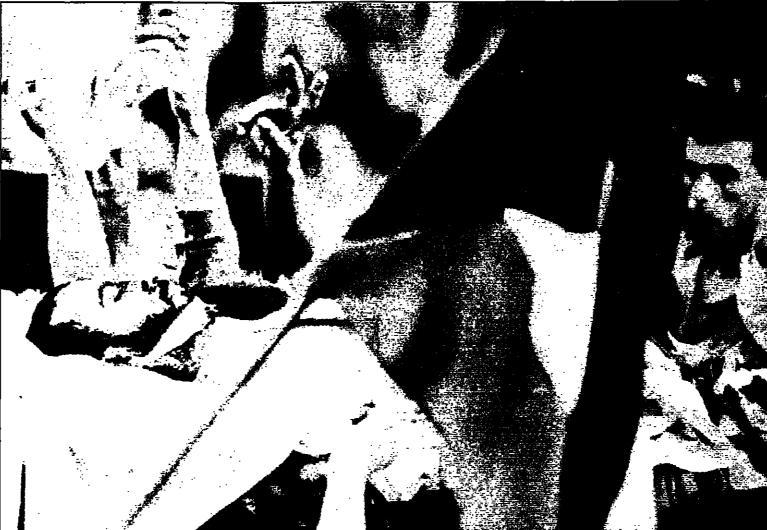
Well aware of the damage caused by the Navy high command's initially weak response to Tailhook, the Army this time has acted swiftly and vigorously: apart from the three instructors charged, 20 other soldiers, both officers and of non-commissioned ranks, have been suspended as of yesterday, while almost 1,500 calls have been logged on a toll-free 'hot line' set up to register complaints arising from what Major General Robert Shadley, commander of the Aberdeen facility, has called "the worst thing I have ever seen in the army'

And in many ways the allegedly systematic sexual harassment and licence at Aberdeen, if confirmed, would be more serious than Tailhook. For one thing, if the charges thus far are to be believed, the practice was underpinned by intimidation. Second, unlike Tailhook, the incidents took place on base and in uniform, and indeed seem to have grown out of routine life at the base.

Nor may the scandal be as straightforward as it at first appeared. Responding to the allegations, the three men charged say they have been falsely accused. They do not deny having had sexual relations illegal between officers and trainces - but insist these were consensual.

As a result, questions are now dom of mixing the sexes in the military. Rigorous separation between them in the barracks at Aberdeen has failed to prevent affairs; such is now the levdered not to move around the base without a "buddy", or chaperon, while no drill commander date be left alone with

segregation will continue, what-Inevitably, the episode has ever the current furore: "Sure, we could solve this by not have ing male instructors," the Army Secretary, Togo West, said this



Angry mourning: Palestinians protesting at yesterday's funeral of Atallah Amireh, 36, a father of nine killed by an Israeli bullet

# Israel fails to soothe West Bank

Patrick Cockburn Deir Qadis, West Bank

specks of blood on the stones of the dirt road mark the flight of the villagers of Deir Qadis after Israeli soldiers shot dead one and wounded 12 when they fiscation of their land to build a Jewish settlement.

It was the worst violence on build on." the West Bank since 60 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed in September after Israel opened a tunnel in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem. Amid fluttering Palestinian flags, police carried the body of Atallah Amirch, 36, a father of nine, to his grave in the nearby village But the army insists that de-

Earlier in the day, some 200 people from four Palestinian vil-

At least 13 people were killed

here yesterday when a mafia

gang blew up their rivals as they

gathered to mourn at a ceme-

tery. Victims were hurled through the air by the remote-

controlled bomb and their re-

people had met at Kotlvakov-

skoye cemetery for a service for

The US was enraged by an

unprecedented stoning attack on the motorcade of

the Burmese democracy

leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

and demanded Rangoon

punish the culprits. The

Nobel Peace laureate was unhurt. Reuter - Rangoon

mains strewn over graves.

Helen Womack

Moscow

marched to a hill where Israeli bulldozers were clearing land to expand a settlement of ultra-orthodox Jews at Kiryat Sefer. "We are losing the equivalent han, a local schoolteacher, "We won't have any land left to

"When the villagers reached the place where the bulldozers were at work, soldiers told them to go home because they had no permit for their demonstration. Mohammed Abu Sabr, who was one of the marchers, said that "many of demonstrators were quite old, in their for-ties or fifties." A confrontation started when

an elderly man was pushed

lages north-west of Jerusalem and close to the border between the West Bank and Israel had over and young Palestinians started jostling the soldiers. The soldiers first fired in the air and then at the legs of villagers from close range. They responded by throwing stones, and the soldiers began to fire at chest height. Mr Amireh was with the violence on 5 Septemher, the Israeli army responded to stone-throwing with live

> rounds aimed to kill. The incident shows that the easing yesterday of the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza, preventing workers reaching employment in Israel. is unlikely to reduce tensions. The speed with which Israel is pushing ahead with building what is in effect a new settlement near Kirvat Sefer is also likely to undermine any re-

Moscow mafia's cemetery bomb kills 13

maining Palestinian confidence in the Oslo accords. Work at expanding Kiryat Se-

fer, home to ultra-orthodox Jews housed in pink-coloured six- or seven-storey blocks, started "a week ago and the local children have been throwing says Mr Nabhan. Despite the shooting earlier in the day, five yellow bulldozers were working yesterday evening at levelling terraces and pushing over olive trees. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has promised to increase numbers of the 140,000 settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile, in one of the few signs of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians in recent months, the descendants of Jews who used to live in Hebron

before the massacre of 1929, in which 67 of them were killed by Palestinians, returned yesterday to disassociate themselves from the present-day Israeli settlers

The settlers today don't represent the old community of Hebron, said Moshe Galmor or, Mustafa Natshe, He added: "We have no connection with

them.' The 48 families of Israeli settlers in central Hebron, who believe that the West Bank and Gaza were given by God to the Jews and that the 2.5 million Palestinian residents are there on sufferance, often portray themselves as the successors to the pre-1929 Jewish community in Hebron. The present-day settlers are defended by 1,000

# punishes biggest debtor New York

David Usborne

The United States is smarting from a humiliating loss in elec-tions at the United Nations for a place on a key finance committee. The unprecedented snub reflected a deepening anger among members over Washington's continuing failure

to pay its UN dues. Although sniping in UN corridors about America's delinquent standing on contributions and, more recently, about its messy efforts to deny a second term to the Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, is almost endemic, there was undisguised astonishment at its failure to secure one of sixteen highly coveted seats on the body, known as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions (ACABQ). Membership for the coming

year of the ACABQ, which makes the most important decisions about UN spending. was decided in an annual secret ballot of all UN states last Friday. It is the first time that the US, which is supposed to provide a quarter of the organisation's budget, has been passed

Tension continues to gather, meanwhile, over the fate of Mr Boutros-Ghali. While diplomats strain to see any sign of formal discussions on the Secretary Generalship in the Security Council are likely to of possible successors is now

about thirty-long. A recent attempt by the US Ambassador to use a private lunch with Mr Boutros-Ghali's wife, Leah Boutros-Ghali, to ask her to help convince her husband to step aside apparently backfired, sources said. "She responded that she would do no such thing," one remarked, with a touch of glee.

Reaction to America's ousting from the budget committee ranged, meanwhile, from unmitigated, almost vengeful, joy to deep concern over the longer-term consequences. "Maybe now Washington will wake up and smell the coffee," one UN official remarked. This should show them at last that the maxim is true: there is no representation without tax-

The US itself offered no sign of humility. "The lack of American participation on the ACABQ will inevitably diminish the significance of that body in UN budget deliberations," an official offered. And for good measure, he went on: outcome of the ACABO elections adds even more to the importance of electing this year a new, highly-qualified, reform-oriented Secretary General for the UN".

#### Travel as many times as you like from £59 a year.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance and you can make £59 go a long way. Because one payment means you can take an unlimited number of trips throughout

And now you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this extra security.

Individual Under ***	Family 2 adds 4 1 didden
£26.50	257.00
£59	£95
289	£127
	£26.50 £59

Rates are at artificite for those aged usion to year and Spin Monday to Friday or Sam to Spin on



Çertun eschuser: अस्त लेक्क्रिकि धन्त्रीक्षर अपूर्णः



Mikhail Likhodei, the head of an Afghan war veterans' or-ganisation who was killed in a scores", said Colonel Stanislav

bomb blast in 1994. I saw one Zhorin, of the Federal Securimutilated body lying on a grave some 30 metres from the centre of the blast," said Artyom Danielvana, a Reuters correspondent.

Likhodei's widow, Yelena, who had escaped with injuries in the blast that killed her husband two years ago, and the man Security services said 130 who succeeded him as the head of the Afghan War Invalids' Foundation.

The explosion was "probably

ty Service, which has taken over from the old KGB and now concentrates on fighting organised crime and terrorism rather than persecuting politi-Among the dead were cal dissidents. It was probably no coincidence that the head of another Afghan war veterans' group, which had a dispute with Likhodei's organisation, survived an assassination attempt recently.

Although many invalids from the war in Afghanistan struggle to survive in the new capitalist Russia by begging from mo-

joy a very different lifestyle as their organisations make use of tax breaks given to the handicapped for commercial ventures. Veterans of the Soviet Union's adventure in Afghanistan as well as hardened fighters who have survived Russia's equally disastrous intervention in Chechnya are also in demand as bodyguards to the

Bombings and shootings are so common in Moscow that the press reports only the most spectacular. Innocent by-

torists at crossroads, others en- standers are unlucky if they get caught in the crossfire of turf battles, which generally concern only Russian businessmen. But police are still hunting the killer of Paul Tatum, an

American who became embroiled in a dispute with his Russian partners in a hotel venture here. He was shot in an underpass

last Sunday in a murder which has shocked the foreign community and which may, for a while at least, make other Western businessmen think twice about investing in Russia.

#### significant shorts US enraged by Slovenian PM's Suu Kyi attack guessing game

#### Janez Drnovsek, Slovenia's Prime Minister, expected his Liberal Democrats to emerge as the biggest party in an election but would not say which others he may

Bhutto to face legal charges

The Pakistani caretaker government is preparing charges against ousted prime her husband, Asif Zardari. Reuter - Islamabad

Poll test for Mexican party

invite to join his coalition.

Mexico's ruling party, facing growing economic unrest, was fighting to keep its grip on power as the crucial minister Benazir Bhutto and Mexico state, the country's biggest, held local polls. AP - Mexico City



You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:

a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'?

b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack? c) just go for a drive?

If your answer is (c) please call 0345 699777 for more information.

Audi (M)



Warning shot for ruling élite as Deng associate is sentenced to death

China gets tough in

Over the past two years,

Peking has been rocked by a succession of huge, possibly

inter-related, corruption scan-

dals which have resulted in the suicide of a deputy city mayor, the sacking of the city's com-

munist party chief, and the ar-rest of about 45 top officials, including Mr Zhou.

volved is unknown. Last week the official Outlook magazine

published a figure of about

£1.5bn, but other much higher

Until now, however, no po-

litically sensitive figure has ac-

tually been sentenced in court.

The fact that Mr Zhou has re-

ceived such a heavy sentence

Deng family and their circle that

the old man's patronage can no

longer safeguard them, as it did

Local Hero

**Ding Cong** 

Ding Cong: 'There are a lot of lamentable things in society'

... the huge gap between the rich and the poor ... Right now, in every aspect of life, there are a

Nor do the remnants of the

old China escape his pen. In one

cartoon, a lazy apprentice is

lounging under a tree counting

his money. The team leader,

sweating from digging, comes up and asks: "You've just got

your bonus, how can you be sit-

ting here like a bump on a log?"

apprentice

lot of unreasonable things.'

sends a clear mess

until recently.

Social satirist

whose art lies

in discretion

sums have been reported.

Only sketchy details of the

Peking — In one of Ding Cong's cartoons, the section chief of a government bureau demands that his new doorbell

be fitted at ankle height. "How

will guests ring the bell?" asks

the puzzled electrician. "My

guests all use their foot to ring

the doorbell because their

hands are always full of gifts for

me," explains the corrupt cadre. Since his political rehabilita-

tion in 1979, it is jokes like this which have made 80-year-old

Mr Ding one of China's best-

loved cartoonists. In a country

where a social satirist must tip-

toe through a political minefield,

Mr Ding's cortoons manage to

tions of modern Chinese life

Corruption, bureaucracy and

money-fever feature regularly in

his work, which appears in

newspapers across the country.
A recent exhibition in Peking at-

tracted up to 3,000 visitors a day.

ble things and unreasonable things in society," says Mr Ding, who signs his work as Xiao Ding

(Little Ding). He pinpoints just

those topics that people in the streets are moaning about:

The attitudes of shop assis-

tants, corruption ... inflation,

There are a lot of lamenta-

and still be published.

Shongang Capital Iron and Steel works, one of the most im-portant industrial conglomer-

etes in China. Crucially, he was

a close associate of Mr Deng's

youngest son, Deng Zhifang, who was boss of one of

Shougang's Hong Kong com-

hallmarks of having a helping hand from his father, Zhou

Guanwu. The elder Zhou, aged

and party secretary of the

Shougang empire, and a very close friend of Deng Xiaoping.
Targeting such a well-connected individual would not be

possible without the go-ahead

from President Jiang Zemin,

who rose to power because of the elder Deng's backing. The

sentence suggests Mr Jiang is

very confident of his stature at

the moment, and that he wants

to warn the Deng children to

stay out of any political ma-

His uncle is a rich overseas Chine

Whether I work or not, I still

Old China was not kind to Mr

Ding. Born in Shanghai in 1916,

he wanted to follow in the foot-

steps of his cartoonist father, but

had to flee the city when the

1949, he edited a magazine un-

til 1957 when, like many artists,

he was branded a Rightist and

banished to the frozen North-

east for three years. Back in Peking, he then fell victim to the

Cultural Revolution. "For more

than 20 years. I had no right to

publish cartoons," he says.
"Rehabilitation" came in

1979, with the start of the reform

era. "I decided to devote all my

remaining years to drawing cartoons, because in the past I had

always been craving to draw car-

toons, but always had no

But a cartoonist specialising in social criticism must still be

very careful. "As a citizen of the

People's Republic of China, if you draw a lot of phenomena which expose the ugly side of so-

ciety, people will criticise you.

nanced largely by the European

between Africa and Europe, it

Algeria opens

a symbolic link to Europe

chance," he says.

was formerly the chairman

Mr Zhou's career bore all the

rested in February 1995, and his

father resigned his Shougang

posts the next day. Little was

then heard about the high-lev-

el corruption purge until April that year when Wang Baosen,

a deputy city mayor, shot him-self, and Chen Xitong, the city

party secretary, was removed from his job. Mr Chen has nev-

er been officially charged, nor thrown out of the party, and is

believed to be living comfortably

The ousting of Mr Chen was

very popular among ordinary Pekingers, but cynicism has

since set in because he has not

been punished. To date, the cor-

ruption crackdown has focused

only on middle and lower lev-

el cadres, with many death sen-

at the weekend made no men-

tion of the suspended death sen-tence, but did report a big

restructuring of the Shougang

But on the other hand, I don't

do not touch upon reality."

want to draw those things which

A cartoonist must be sure

footed enough not to overstep

criticise leaders by name. My

against a specific person, oth-

There are still some topics

erwise there will be trouble."

that cannot be touched upon.

For instance, no cartoonist would dare to portray the corruption scandal which resulted

last year in the sacking of

Peking's party chief and the suicide of a deputy mayor. In re-

cent months, party control of

the media has even intensified

as part of the official campaign

I have drawn so many pictures

about the unreasonable things but although I keep drawing,

they never change. I am very dis-appointed, feeling my function is really very limited."

for "spiritual civilisation". These days, Mr Ding is sounding slightly disillusioned.

tences and heavy jail terms.

ed off the in the top

audi Araan emer s being taken for questioning by police after the Timor conference was broken up Photograph: AP th airports DC-1.

■ Jakaria (AP) - The super-

a Roman Catholic bishop from Australia, and one of the deleeration forum summit.

very frightened... A spark at any moment [and] it could have

turned into a bloodbath... It was very frightening because these people were quite irrational." About 20 police officers stationed outside the hotel where

the conference was taking place did not stop the pro-government demonstrators from entering. The demonstrators tore down banners and hurled chairs and tables, ransacking the room for about half an hour. The protesters then retreated to the

Among those arrested were a British journalist for the Hong Kong-based Asia Week, an Australian working for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and two local reporters.

Malaysia's Deputy Prime

Minister Anwar Ibrahim denied the youths acted with government sanction. But the government had warned that it planned to prevent the meeting from taking place. Malaysia feared the meeting, initially scheduled to last until Monday, would embarrass its South East Asian ally Indonesia.

The conference was intended to highlight the independence movement in East Timor.

a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. This week sees the fifth anniversary of a bloody confrontation in Dili, the capital, between troops and demon-strators following a funeral for an anti-Indonesian activist shot dead by soldiers. It is estimated that Indonesian troops killed at least 200 people...

models Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell have opened their first Fashion Café restaurant in Asia. At the opening of the Jakarta branch, Campbell said that she loved Indonesia Naughtan told Reuters. "I was It is sad," said Hilton Deakin. Manila during the forthcoming cral and broad-minded.

# Malaysian thugs wreck East Timor conference

Kuala Lumpur (Agencies) — Delegates to an international terday told of their fear after their meeting in the Malaysian capital was broken up by government thugs.
Some 200 demonstrators

from groups allied to Malaysia's ruling coalition barged into the meeting room, hurling chairs and tearing down banners. Police then moved in and detained 49 foreign delegates, expelling some of them. Andrew McNaughtan, con-

venor of the Australia East Timor Association in New South Wales, flew into Manila after he and 15 other activists were expelled. "They ran amok, overturning chairs ... and

Diplomats suggested other

South East Asian nations were closing ranks behind Indonesia after Jakarta was severely embarrassed last month when the Nobel Peace Committee awarded the 1996 prize to two East Timorese. The Philippines has banned one of the two prize-

Issued by Midland Back nlc. Mile and Liz are factional characters but their story is based on real Midland customers



**Meet Mike** and Liz.

# Mike and Liz have a brochure that will help them choose the right home.

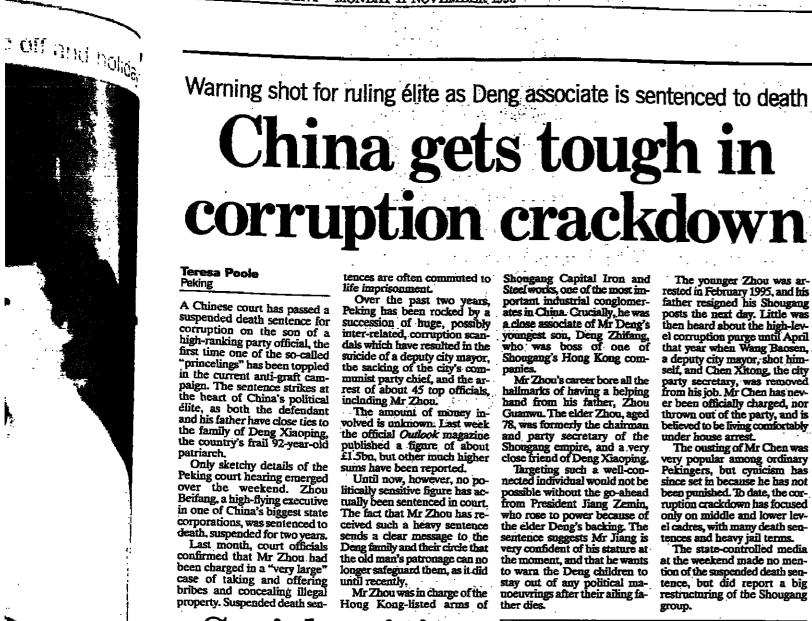
Mike and Liz have just spent over three years in a poky little flat with no garden (Mike's constant gripe). Understandably, they are more than ready to move, which is why they asked

for a copy of Midland's "Chaosing your home". lt's a practical guide that takes you through the whole process of

choosing a place, from assessing the neighbourhood to planning and maintaining a garden (Mike's favourite page). For a copy call 0800 100 129, Lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.







tandi

MUM

#### What's the most important thing he relies on to fix your car?



#### His experience.

The average AA patrol has over eleven years of service. So when you make that call for breakdown assistance, you can be sure that the person who comes to help you knows exactly what they're doing.

> It's all yours from just £39\*.

0800 444 445 (extension 5172).

Immediate cover available

natural gas network. By 2000, the pipe will supply nearly half Spain's gas needs.

The pipeline has been nearly five years in the making, at the cost of \$2.3bn - nearly half of which was contributed by the to build up gradually and will replace ensting supplies brought by boat from Algeria - which

tralia. It is the world's most complicated such project, since The first gas pipeline between North Africa and Europe - fithe geologically complex and uneven floor of the Gibraltar strait, in the teeth of fiendishly strong currents. Debris from Union – opened this week, bringing gas from Algeria to Spain and eventually to France the Second World War, including mines and sunken battleships, had to be cleared away before the pipe could be laid. and Portugal. A symbolic link

will help to diversify the supply of gas throughout Europe and Fears that the pipeline might be the target of Algeria's Islamic bring down transport costs.
"It was a dream becoming fundamentalists have been played down by the Spanish gas true. Few people believed in this project 25 months ago," the Algerian Energy Minister Amar Makhloufi told foreign guests tion in Algeria recognise the economic importance of the project.
However, last October Isand reporters shortly after the

went officially on stream on Satlamic extremists decapitated The 1,400km pipeline brings 34 passengers in a bus stopped gas from Morocco's Hassi at a false road check near the 34 passengers in a bus stopped gas field, and gas pipelines have R'Mel deposits via Morocco and in the past been a terrorst tarthe Gibraltar Strait to the southern Spanish city of Cor-doba, where it will be chan-nelled into Spain's existing get for those seeking to sabotage the country's economy. Years of fundamentalist vio-

continuing to invest in the ex-ploitation of Algeria's oil and gas reserves. The fields are in the southern Sahara area that European Union. Supplies are has been largely spared the vito build up gradually and will reolence of the north.

lence, causing 60,000 deaths, have not, however, discouraged foreign companies from

None the less, the Algerian government has designated the supplies 50 per cent of Spain's area around Hassi R'Mel "a gas - Libya, Norway and Aus- strategic security zone".

# How can 180 people eating lunch and shopping in Rome help these children?

Andrew Gumbel

In 1974, the United Nations held a World Food Conference at which Henry Kissinger, then US Secretary of State, vowed to eradicate world hunger within a decade. It did not

happen, of course.
This week, the international community is meeting again for an even grander occasion, a four-day World Food Summit hosted by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation on behalf of some 180 national delegutions. Despite the fanfare, its aim is markedly more modest than its predecessor's: this time, the pledge to is reduce world hunger by half over the next 20 years. But even that goal looks like a distant mirage. Coming at a time of austerity

among the rich industrialised countries, including big cutbacks in con-tributions to UN agencies, the summit has failed to extract a single commitment of cash, trading reform or agricultural policy shifts from any of the major donor countries.

Enthusiasm for the summit, already shaky in the wake of recent hashes on environment in Rio. population in Cairo. women in Beijing and habitat in Istanbul, has become virtually non-existent. "Hunger is a noble issue, but the fact is the world

Depth: 1.2m

Time: 0923hrs

Precisely.

The Tudor Prince Ovsterdate Submariner. Tudor prices start at £520,

PROBABLY THE COUNTRY'S LEADING CHAIN OF QUALITY JEWELLERS

G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S & WALKER & HALL

Fo find your nearest Judor branch call FREE on 0800 220733

don't seem to be going anywhere," said one humanitarian aid official who knows the UN system well.

The "summit" tag has become something of an embarrassment, too, since almost none of the world's most powerful leaders are turning up. With the exception of Italy, which is hosting the event, the rest of the industrialised world is sending agri-culture or overseas aid ministers. Britain will be represented by Baroness Chalker.

That will leave about 100 Third World leaders milling around Rome with little hope of obtaining anything except for a few bagfuls of fashion purchases and some slap-up Italian meals on the side. The FAO's director-general, Jacques Diouf, has spent most of the past two years flying around the world persuading as many leaders as possible to attend, and has even secured international funding to cover their travel and hotel expenses. But for what?

The whole thing will be a waste of time and money dedicated to the greater glory of Jacques Diouf," the humanitarian aid official complained, echoing sentiments shared by many non-governmental organisations and individuals within the UN

Temperature: 32°C (and rising)

is sick of mega-conferences and forking out money for causes that get cut in real terms in its 50-year history and is now struggling to justify the sorts of expenditure that once made it a byword for bureaucratic. self-serving money-wasting within the UN system.

one comes across a plethora of phrases like the following: "If all parties at local, national, regional and international levels make determined and sustained efforts, then the overall goal of food for all, at all times, will be achieved." No clear idea is given of what these efforts should be, nor the type of body which

could pursue them.
"You have to realise," said an FAO delegate who helped negotiate the declaration on behalf of the most important donor countries, "that this is not a blueprint for action, merely a symbol for the kind of action that individual governments could take." A rather arcane aspiration for an major international meeting, surely? "I don't think so," the world-weary diplomat responded. "What are

words anyway except for symbols?" The toothlessness of the document has less to do with the negotiators, though, than the structure imposed upon them. Jim Greenfield, director of the FAO's commodities and trade



"real movement in perceptions" about the damaging effect of mar-ket price fluctuations on the hungry of the Third World, something which is at least acknowledged for the first time in the summit declaration. But of course the summit does not sugst ways to combat such fluctuations that is the job of the World Trade Organisation, whose work this sum-

What little world governments all agree to, unfortunately, tends to be a blend of the interests of First World economies and Third World élites, at the expense of the true interest group - the billion or so people who are actually hungry. Thus the talk, just as in 1974, is of increasing production, developing high-tech agricultural methods to increase yields and encouraging more trade in food-

stuffs - "music to the ears of the big northern farming conglomerates, without enough emphasis on the small-scale production in the south, according to Christine Whitehead, a senior policy adviser at Oxfam.

The summit declaration says that primary responsibility for food security rests with individual governments, operating within a "market-

sion that many see as disastrous. "In failing to address the inequity in the current balance of global food security," said Save The Children's food security adviser, John Seaman, "the summit is at risk of sentencing generations of the world's poor to a future where they will never have an opportunity for sustainable devel-

Nato to spell out new Bosnia force

Nato will today decide on its nelp maintain peace in Bosnia throughout the winter on its role, size, shape and how long it will stay. The chairman of Nato's Military Committee, General Klaus Nanmann, will present the plans at a special meeting of Nato's ruling North Atlantic Council.

The mandate of the present force, I-For, currently 487,000 strong, expires on 20 December. The US had planned to have all its 15,000 troops out by then, but is, or for a smaller force.

opened the door for a new sion in Bosnia with US participation. "There is some thought of a smaller, more limited mission, because economic reconstruction has not taken hold, and some tensions remain between the ethnic groups. If the mission is properly defined, I will consider it, he said.

Without US troops, no peace indementation force would be credible and it is expected that troops from the main contributors - the US, France and Britain - will remain in Bosnia in a pattern similar to their pre-

on having someone of compa-rable rank in the Sarajevo headquarters. In place of three divisions, as now—one US, one British and one French - there

will probably be three brigades of up to 10,000 troops.

The US recently moved in a 5,000-strong brigade of the 1st Infantry (Mechanised) – the "Big Red One" – ostensibly to cover the withdrawal of the 15,000 troops they have based in northern Bosnia. Similarly, the British have just moved 40 Armoured Brigade into their sector in west Bosnia.

■ Pale (Reuter) — Bosnian Serb political leaders, asserting control over an army in disaryesterday after sacking indicted war criminal Ratko Mladic officers took an oath at a brief ceremony, officially sealing a decision announced over the weekend by Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic.

remain open, including total headed by a US four-star genwithdrawal. The other three eral, William Crouch, head of options are to station forces Nato's Central European Land nearby, for example, in Hun-Command. His deputy will gary, from where they could be probably be British Lieutenant General Roddy Cordy-Simpson, although the French will insist ught in if there was a crisis; for the force to stay much as it **OR** get up to £35,000 home contents cover with no complicated calculations. Interested? Call 0800 333 800

TUDOR

Saro-Wiwa

Execution of fouted just is nest (V)

受到5.000 materials. <u> 1994</u> ya 114 w \$1.00m Fre delice: activate A 11

Call 4 News to the second Bright Control Astrony.

EAGLE STAR Direct

# Blair must take the plunge on voting reform

n the privacy of dimly-lit Westminster backrooms, the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties are nervously embracing. For months there have been cautious fumblings between consenting adults as the two main opposition parties explore their common interest in, above all, the reform of British politics.

Of the two, the Liberal Democrats are the more ardent and radical partner - not surprising, perhaps, in the smaller party, with more to gain - while new Labour is just a little more prudish. On many of the issues, they basically agree. These include the importance of Scottish devolution, of restoring some of the power of local government, of introducing new procedures in the Commons and reforming the Lords, and incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. There are differences about the details, and in some cases they are important differences. But, as on other issues, such as education, there is enough common ground for common positions to be articulated, should the party leaders wish.

The great question, however, is voting reform for the Commons. It is what most separates most Liberal Democrat politicians from most Labour ones. In the end, if Labour remain committed to the current system of choosing MPs, then that party's relationship with the Liberal Democrats can be no more than a flirtation. Given that Paddy Ashdown's party has been losing ground in local government by-elections recently, some Labour people will advocate a swift parting once Tony Blair wins his hoped-for majority. And for the Lib Dems, alliance with Labour without significant progress towards a new voting system would be a sordid trap, leading nowhere. But what would be best for the country?

Voting reform is unlike many other

entangled from the interests of the parties. The system has disproportionately favoured the Conservative Party, and it is not surprising that Tories are disproportionately in favour of it. Proportional representation would most boost the Liberal Democrats; the Lib Dems are enthusiastic boosters of PR. Everyone claims to support one or other system on the basis of principle.

issues in that it cannot be honestly dis-

These principles, taken one by one, sound fine. There is the principle that an elected Member should look after a single constituency, acting as advocate for all voters - a principle which many MPs endorse. That goes, too, for the principle that all MPs should be basically equal in status, elected as local representatives by these same constituencies. Those principles, taken together, point inescapably to the existing first-past-the-post system. But they are incompatible with the principle that each vote should have a similar value, and with the principle that the nation's choice, party by party, should be reflected in the House of Commons. So how should we choose, particularly when we know that the conflicting principles are, anyway, a disguise for party advantage?

It is a question of democratic priorities. We believe that in a country whose binding belief is fairness, restoring belief in the fairness of the voting system matters more than defending one-seat constituencies at all costs. (One-seat constituencies may be a British tradition, but like many of our traditions they are more recent than many people realise: the Vic-torians fought in multi-member seats and so did some pre-1945 moderns.) We also think that a country of avid and shrewd consumers, accustomed to wide choice, is fed up with the black-or-white, him-or-him choice offered by most constituencies.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

Even in swing constituencies, taken especially seriously by the party strategists, the choices can seem absurd. Why should one have to choose between, say, an old-style piston-driven socialist and a smirking anti-European libertarian Thatcherite? Surely our judgements deserve more sophisticated options than that?

Across great swathes of the country, voters are in effect disenfranchised by being Labour or Tory supporters in the "wrong exaggerated, and so is the Tory domination of the south. These exaggerations help to push the nation itself apart. So in principle (that word again) we favour changing the electoral system to one that reflects more clearly the preferences of voters and flattens out the apparent gulfs in opinion between different parts of the country. What, though, of the sordid, behind-

the-arras deals and coalitions that would

WE MUST TAKE VIOLENCE OFF

OUR STREETS AND OFF OUR SCREENS
AND PUT IT BACK

WHERE IT BELONGS...

be forged by a fairer system, in which one party would be much less likely to have an overall majority? These would happen, yes. They do in almost every case where PR is used. But defenders of the status quo should ask themselves this: what have the past few years in politics been but the revelation that the present party system is essentially about pacts and coalitions only within the closed ranks of one or other party? The Conservative Party is the same coalition that, in other countries, exists between moderate Christian

Democrats and hard-line nationalists. Deals are made here, just as in Germany or the Netherlands, but they are made in the unlit corner of the whips' office, not out in the relative open, between party leaders. Part of the malaise of modern British politics is that legitimate political differences within the main parties are submerged, so that any dis-

... IN OUR CLASSROOMS!

"split" or "division". Would it be worse for our country if the pro- and anti-Brussels Tories argued openly from different parties? Or if the socialist opponents of Tony Blair had their own small party in the Commons, rather than hiding their feelings and sniping from inside the Labour coalition?

The same argument applies to those who say that a fairer voting system would give undue influence to small parties, such as the Liberal Democrats, since they could control the balance of parliamentary power. Today, the anti-Maastricht Tories are just such a small, influential balancing group. So are the Ulster Unionists. So, in different circumstances, are the pro-mon-

etary union supporters of the Chancellor. We do not think that supporters of the present system are knaves, or that PR is a path to Heaven; judging voting systems is about effects, not ethics. But we think a change would reinvigorate our democracy, breathe new life into the Commons, and could be achieved without destroying anything essential in British politics. Given the disposition of political forces, it might split the Conservatives while only splintering Labour, and thus benefit Tony Blair at the expense of John Major. But if most people became disillusioned with Labour, or hostile to European Union, the balance of advantage would alter.

But favouring a new electoral system, as we do, is only the half of it. The next question is to hang out your preference as to which alternative system you prefer. Here too, non-party principles are the surest guide. A "list" system, which keeps single-member constituencies but adds a new class of appointed MPs from party lists to even out the differences, would give even more power of patron-

cussion or expression of them emerges as age to the party hacks and apparatchiks. It would allow MPs into the Commons who, freed of the need to respond to constituents, would become full-time careerists, instead of part-time ones. We prefer constituencies of two or three MPs. giving voters a much bigger choice and allowing into Parliament many strong voices that are not heard there today.

First, however, the argument for change must be won. And the person whose mind most needs to change is Tony Blair. He is the fulcrum. Probably, he will be in a position to make this happen, or to prevent it. As he contemplates the odd mating dance going on in Westminster with the Liberal Democrats, he can afford to lift his eyes. This is not just a sordid grope between mutually interested par-ties. Between now and the election, Blair can move clearly towards supporting reform and help to bring about a fundamental shift in British politics. Or he can retreat to an essentially conservative position, and hope that he and his successors can find a way under first-past-the-post (frankly improbable) to banish Labour's record of defeat in the century to come.

That would be applauded by some Labour partisans as "putting the party first". In fact, it would be more likely to hetray Labour's future. Given the likely effect of converting to voting reform - a Tory split, and a moderate centre-left alliance - Blair is in the happy position of seeing Labour's selfish sectional interests coincide with the interest of our democracy as a whole. He must, surely. be beginning to realise what he should do. The Labour leader is cautious, serious and straight. He is not a natural flirter with other parties in dark corners. But the time is close when he should do the decent thing; take a deep breath and lunge towards reform.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Execution of** Saro-Wiwa flouted justice

Sir: Richard D North's extensive apologia for Shell Nigeria ("Can you be sure of Ken Saro-Wiwa?", 8 November) leaves an unpleasant taste on the eve of the first anniversary of Ken Saro-Wiwa's judicial execution, and the longdelayed visit by Commonwealth foreign ministers to Abuja in a few

Breathtakingly, it ignores the fact that Saro-Wiwa and the other executed Ogonis never received a fair trial - a matter clearly set out by Michael Birnbaum QC and other international observers; that the Petroleum Minister had threatened punitive action against Shell and BP on 17 July 1995 (as reported by the CHRI mission of that month in Nigeria - Stolen by Generals); that the executions by clemency by several Commonwealth leaders, which some thought had been heeded; and that Shell, responding to pressure from Amnesty and others, is now incorporating a human rights commitment in its business mission statement.

Commonwealth states which have rightly suspended the military regime from membership. If the eight foreign ministers visiting Abuja on 19 November were to depend as exclusively on a dictator's briefing as North has on Shell's, their view would be treated with distrust.

RICHARD BOURNE Chair, Trustee Commutee. Commonwealth Human Rights Inniative.

Sir: As a former Shell geophysicist, I have to say that Richard North's article detending Shell's role in Nigeria is so riddled with holes it's

difficult to know where to start. The underlying truth is that our consumer capitalist society is so dependent on tossil fuels that in its greed to extract them. environmental and social concerns have been downgraded. The mounting effect of externalising these costs will undoubtedly rebound on us unless we shift soon to a sustainable way of life which utilises renewable energy sources.

The only reason that Shell "necessarily deals with authorities of which it strongly disapproves" is because the company group puts profits above ethical principles. Moreover. Shell's argument that if it were to pull out of Nigeria then someone less committed would go in" is morally indefensible. The same excuse is made with no validity by Western companies and governments in justification of arms sales to oppressive regimes. For North to move from an admission that "100 flares waste a

resource equivalent to a quarter of France's gas demand" to the contention that locals benefit because the flares "constitute free light and a means of drying root crops such as cassava" is

breathtaking in its crassness. Shell spends less than 0.5 per cent of its profits on community

At a time when many international journalists are having difficulty in getting visas to visit Nigeria, such an unbalanced report "You can be sure of Shell" - does a disservice to oppressed Nigerians

London WC!

projects. As for Nigerian government funding of the local communities, Shell as much as admits in North's report that the political structure ensures that the locals of the Niger delta do not, indeed cannot, benefit from Shell's activities there.

It's time the Royal Dutch/Shell Group lived up to its own statement of general business principles in its Nigerian operations. This statement includes the promotion of measures for the protection of health, safety and the environment for all who may be affected directly or indirectly by their activities". If Shell cannot uphold this then it should withdraw from Nigeria. Dr DAVID CROMWELL

Sir: I have been a regular reader ofyour newspaper since its first edition as I admined fair-minded reporting, so it was all the more of a shock to read Richard D North's appalling piece on the late Ken

The picture he paints both of Ken's character and motivation, along with the environmental state of the Ogoniland, is completely at odds with the many detailed reports which have been done over the past few years, both by human rights organisations and respecting environmentalists.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was not a saint. I am sure, but he was an extraordinarily courageous man who sacrificed his own comfort and safety to campaign for justice for the Ogoni people. He died a truly terrible death after many months

of torture and near-starvation. Ken was an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience and the recipient of the Right Livelihood Award and the Goldman Prize for services to the environmental movement. His case was also taken up by International PEN, Friends of the Earth and

Greenpeace.
Can all these organisations be wrong and Mr North be right? DIANA MORANT London SN3

Right bank

Sir, Your correspondent, C H Standfield, must be sure of his facts before impugning the professionalism of the crew of the KLM flight he travelled on (letter,

9 November).
Aircraft arriving at Heathrow from the north-west and north-east normally route initially towards radio beacons at Bovingdon or Lambourne respectively.

From there air traffic control gives them radar vectors (headings to fly) towards the airport's instrument landing system beams. The turn on to the ILS localiser cam is usually over the City of

London. In other words, a rightwing bank over the City is the norm for traffic approaching from these directions **JSEVANS** Chesham, Bucks

**BBC** viewing data clarified

Sir: The data published in our Statement of Promises to Viewers and Listeners about the range of programmes broadcast in peak time by BBC1, BBC2, ITV and Channel 4 was included in our Annual Report and Accounts published in July. This key performance indicator has been published now for three years in

our Annual Report and Accounts without attracting challenge. The criterion is that a broadcaster must transmit UKmade programmes in each category for more than half an hour in an average week at peak time, that is between 6pm and 10.30pm. The measure is stringent and designed to reveal what the range is across an average week over the year. It is applied fairly; for instance it appears as if BBC1 does not broadcast any natural history programmes. Of course we do, but not to the extent to meet

the criterion. However, we should have stated the criterion for inclusion and how the calculations are arrived at. We will correct this in further print

The plain fact, however, is that last year the BBC broadcast a wider range of UK-made programme types in peak time throughout the year than ITV and Channel 4: and so we should. given our unique method of

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor. The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

funding. We are committed to be more accountable; that means that we must provide evidence of our performance. We will continue to do so, as our licence-payers expect. COLIN BROWNE Director of Corporate Affairs, BBC London WI

Stripped ski piste is eco-rape

Sir: Well done for shedding light on the environmental problems of skiing ("Whatever happened to green skiing?", 2 November). However, the "canny initiative" reported at Les Arcs of stripping the piste of topsoil, removing the rocks, and replanting with hardy alpine grass, is not what I would

call an environmental solution. The plants that had naturally colonised the piste over thousands of years have been replaced with a monoculture of one species. This is not conserving biodiversity. The 'environmental" benefit seems to be that less snow needs to be "made".

The rape of the piste is irreversible (and must have required a prodigal amount of energy-wasting earth-moving vehicles into the bargain).

I hope this does not become "good practice" - please do not encourage it by calling it an environmental initiative. NICOLA DAVIES Swindon, Wiltshire

Schizophrenia no cause for guilt

Sir: You report (1 November) on research based at the University of Oulu in Finland. A long-term study of over 12,000 people beginning before their birth showed that children born after unwanted pregnancies were at slightly increased risk of schizophrenia in

The scientific report of this work stressed that the meaning of this curious finding is obscure. Mothers may have had a variety of reasons for not wishing to be pregnant. These include suffering themselves from illnesses which increase the risk of schizophrenia in their offspring, probably by subtle effects on the developing brain. This Finnish study has demonstrated that early physical illness in the newborn may also

have this effect; this may be preventable. Several parents of people with schizophrenia have contacted me, feeling upset and guilty. The inference they drew from your report was that their own children must have been unwanted and unloved. In fact, the research showed quite the contrary; most

people with schizophrenia were wanted babies. I spend a great deal of time helping relatives of those with this distressing and puzzling brain illness. The seeds of schizophrenia may sometimes be sown early in life, but not by parents; it is not their fault. Dr P B JONES

University of Nottingham

Oxford dons fear for green space

Sir: John Patten, in his article about the School of Management Studies at Oxford University ("Lucre made the spires what they are", 9 November), completely misrepresents both the issue under debate and the reasons why so many voted against the proposal.

The question of whether Oxford should or should not have a School of Management was not in question; this has been part of the university's plan for some time. Neither was Mr Said's generosity. The speakers on both sides of the debate fully supported the school and gratefully acknowledged Mr

Said's gift.
The issue being debated was whether the school should be on a particular site, and one that had been sold to the university 30 years ago on condition that it was to remain a "green space" in perpetuity.

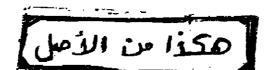
motion did so for three main reasons. Firstly, that the site should remain unbuilt on, as was agreed when it was bought; secondly, that the site was offered to Mr Said, and a design for the building decided on, without sufficient consultation with all the university and college bodies concerned; thirdly, that it appears that the governing body of the proposed school would have only a minority representation from the university, with the majority being appointed by Mr

The speakers against the motion: were concerned not only with preserving one of the everdecreasing areas of green space in Oxford's city centre, but also with keeping good faith with the conditions of sale of the land, and with issues of open government within the university. STEVE ROBERTS

Sir: I have nothing to do with Oxford or business schools, but I read with dismay the letter from the President of Magdalen College (8 November). He says that Oxford values its democracy more highly than its short-term reputation". If less than 40 years ago, the Congregation gave an undertaking to leave the site green "in perpetuity", why on earth is it trying to go back on its word? Perhaps the Oxford Dictionary has a different definition of the word "perpetuity" from the rest of us.
MARCUS MURPHY

Fine Euro-king

Sir: Richard coeur de lion (letters 4, 5, 7 November) was a European par excellence. The admiring French mark his campaign trail against their king with red rampant lions on gold shields, and the Germans valued him highly enough to keep him captive in one of their castles. For his part, Richard raised English taxes for the rebuilding of Chartres Cathedral while fighting the French king, and together with Blondel took troubadour songs to Germany long before the Beatles. French-speaking and French-educated, Richard cannot have understood a word at Westminster. Give the chap a break and send him to Brussels. MARGARET DAONE Ramsey, Cambridgeshire



Letters may be edited for length and clority. We regret we are unable to ackno

# Thank God for the gays

The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement commemorates its 20th anniversary in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday. The backwoodsmen are predictably enraged. But, argues Paul Vallely, traditionalists could learn much from those they seek to condemn

the news. Next Saturday's service in Southwark's Anglican cathedral to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement was condemned at the weekend by church backwoodsmen for "promoting promiscuity and blasphemy". A survey of churchgoers linked to the theologically conservative Evangelical Alliance yesterday claimed that 96 per cent of British congregations believe gay sex to be wrong. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, blustered into the debate to insist that just because gays were being allowed into a cathedral didn't mean that the Church of Eng-land was about to alter its mud-

dled stance on homosexuality. The survey is evidence that a vast number of churches stand by 2,000 years of biblical analysis which concludes that homosexual sex is outside the will and purpose of God," said the Reverend Clive Calver, director-general of the alliance.

It is not just the opinions but the vehemence with which they are expressed that has taken the Until the Thought for the Day contributor Anne Atkins launched a vituperative broadside against the event on Radio 4 last month, most of us had assumed that the Church injunctions. Believe Paul literwas slowly coming to grips with ally and you will accept slavery,

tude to homosexuality. But the prejudices clearly lie deeply embedded in the woodwork of the nation's pews.

It is hard to justify. It is true that the Old Testament denounces homosexual acts as "an abomination", along with bestiality and incest. But it says the same thing about nudity, eating pork and prawns, and wearing garments made out of more than one fabric. It is not clear what is Mr Calver's stance on cotton and polyester shirts or Bird's Eye Fisherman's Pie, but he has not been noticeable in his insistence on the Levitical punishment of death for both parties caught in adultery.

"Abomination" is, anyway, a mistranslation; the Hebrew refers to a violation of ritualistic purity. (Sodomy is another oft-uncorrected misconstruction; most biblical scholars now say that the sin of Sodom was not pederasty but inhospitality to strangers.) On what basis do the biblical fundamentalists select some bits of Leviticus to interpret literally and not others?

The New Testament does not help much. In the Gospels, Jesus never mentions the subother detailed issues of morality. Those who accept St Paul's condemnation of homosexual lust do not necessarily accept his other culturally specific

denounce long hair, require wives to be subservient to their husbands, and never criticise the government (Paul, remember, expected the end of the world within his generation). You would also insist that women should stay silent in church" - not an injunction to which the voluble Mrs Atkins

seems ready to acquiesce. The fact is that the mainstay of Christian opposition to same-sex relationships rests on tradition. Its core is the princiearly Church drew, using the philosophical tools of the pagan Aristotle and the Stoics, from observing the world around it and inferring that how the world was is how God intended it to be. The central purpose of sex, it therefore pronounced, is procreation.

Many early churchmen, such as St Augustine, followed St Paul in thinking sex a shameful activity at the best of times virginity and continence are the highest callings. Certainly any deviation from the procreation end was therefore, well, deviant

But the suppositions that underlay natural law were culturally specific, too. It viewed sexuality in terms of the welfare of societies rather than individuals. It also assumed, as did

heterosexual and that a few perverts chose to ignore their true nature out of wilful lust. There was no such thing as homosexuality, only homosex-

Much has changed since then. Although the Protestant reformation kept procreation as the primary purpose of sex, it also emphasised that friendship and intensity of love should exist between spouses, and said that sex had a key role in The social and political thought of the Enlightenment began to construe the rights of the individual as being as important of those of society.

After Freud, sexuality came to be seen as a profound stratum of the personality, not merely a genital activity. More recently, empirical scientific research has suggested that either some people are born homosexual, or at the very least, their basic sexual orientation becomes relatively fixed in early childhood, usually before the age of seven without any conscious choice on the individual's behalf. Even the Catholic Church

has caught up. Ordinary Catholics have set the pace by ignor-ing their church's teaching on contraception - their behaviour

shows that they accept that the majority of their sexual acts are not about procreation but must be judged by criteria of love and the bonding of mutual pleasure.

Even the Vatican has moved substantially. In 1975, Rome made a distinction between two kinds of same-sex acts. Some were due to a lack of normal sexual development, or were freely chosen through bad example. But others, it said, were victims of a pathological constitution which was

t did not seem a statement of marked liberainess. But the formidable intellectual armoury of the Vatican was brought to bear on the issue with remorseless logic. In 1986, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the ultra-conservative watchdog of the Church's doctrinal orthodoxy, pronounced that what is inborn is morally neutral: homosexual orientation, therefore, was blameless: only acting on it was blame-worthy. His pronouncement was entitled "On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons". it was a dramatic develop-ment. In Catholic moral theology, "persou" is a term that constitutes a profound moral

statement about the humanity,

rguments were superseded. From that basis, an emerging, gay theology, along with femiinstitutionalisation of sexuality,

is now pressing towards an

acceptance that homosexual

relations and acts are intrinsi-

ness of God".

dignity and worth of the indi-

made in the image and like-

cally no less valuable than ual ones. "It would be a very cavalier and capricious God who created people a certain way and then instructed them that they were forbidden from fulfilling the potential they have been given," says the Rev Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. "So why do they then say: 'Yes, you can be members of the Church, but only so

with a long face, cringing or deeply depressed." Most churches continue to maintain this distinction between acceptable orientation and unacceptable practice except for the Church of England, which goes one step farther by saying that the laity can live in faithful homosexual relationships, but the clergy can't.
"To be made gay," says Kirker,
"is not automatically to have

long as you shut up, go round

been given the gift of celibacy." At this point the arguments of the conservatives turn from theology back to instinctive prejudice. It is only female sexuality that socialises the male, and without it we are left with the rampant irresponsibility of the unmarried fathers of the underclass", or a gay subculture which is caricatured as seedy, promiscuous and hectoring, without any thought as to whether such characteristics are inevitably those of a group unable to live openly and there

fore driven underground. The old joke is pertinent

Q: What do homosexuals do in bed? A: Eat biscuits and listen to Radio 4 mainly, like everyone else.

There is still an obsession among many traditionalists with the mechanics of homosexual sex, as though genital acts rather than relationships were at the heart of the iden-

ity is not hetero. "I think what really upsets people about the Southwark service is the idea that we are gathering there to pray," says Liz Stuart, a leading feminist theologian, a Roman Catholic, who is a lesbian. "They would rather think it is going to be a day-long orgy in the cathedral. Many people can't get out of their heads the idea that homosexuals spend all their time having sex. The reality is not that, just as it is not the case that we're people from the outside trying to come in and take over. It's our church, too. The cathedral will be full of people who are deeply involved in its life - priests, theologians, organists, pastoral workers."

It may go further than that. It may be that instead of

merely tolerating homosexuals vidual. Homosexuals, like as sinners, like everyone else, everyone else, he said, were the Church has something to learn from them. The gift of homosexuals to the Church, All the nature is nurture reflects Kirker, is another insight of being on the mar-gins: "Individuals who would otherwise be part of the white. nist critiques of the patriarchal middle-class establishment mainstream have an all too real experience of being at the margins. It makes you more compassionate for others-on the margins, too." That can bring a critical detachment to the heart of an otherwise priv-

ileged ecclesiology. It has its limitations. Gay men may be designated by society as mock women, indi-viduals who have sold out on their masculinity, but they still define themselves in relation to

"It can make gay men as sexist as other men," says Liz Stuart. "Gay men are still closer to the table and, in the main, they are fighting to get a place at that table. Lesbians, because they are much farther away, are more likely to be interested in overturning the table or making a table of a different type.

want gay clergy to be recognised lesbians tend to ask more radical questions, such as: do we need clergy at all? "This is one of the lessons of women's ordination," says Liz Stuart. "A number of women priests have come to the realisation that they were only admitted to the priesthood on condition that they were grateful, and behaved like men. They only let us in to shut us up, one said

But the contribution goes beyond the politics of ecclesiology. Gay and lesbian members of the Church are offering dynamic new insights into theology Marriage, says Liz Stuart, can be a beautiful relationship in which both partners grow, heal and flourish in the warmth of each other's enduring love. But it can be the opposite elling and belittling. And in social terms, it is an institution

Lesbians have begun redefinfriendship in a way which could re-enrich marital relationships. "Both the Gospels and church tradition present us with a paradigm of friendship - Ruth and Naomi, David and Jonathan, Jesus and his group of male dis-ciples — in which dynamics of mutuality replace traditional ones of submission and dominance," she says, "When we get to heaven, gay people will be more at home; because in heaven, we are told, there is no

It is a field in which work is only beginning. Yet if it bears fruit, the Church may be forced gratefully to acknowledge that though homosexuality - like celibacy - is self-evidently not right for everyone, it is a good job that someone is blessed

## HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60 CONSULT THE RIGHT SAGA SPECIALIST The SAGA Private Healthcare plan Comprehensive medical cover from only £5 a week

eveloped exclusively for people aged 60 and over, SAGA Private Healthcare provides comprehensive medical cover at a price you may find surprisingly affordable.

You can choose from 2 levels of cover, either Immediate Care or the lower cost 6-week Option, so should the need arise, you will receive prompt attention in private hospital accommodation with all medical expenses paid.\*

- Comprehensive cover pays for in-patient and out-patient treatment, plus Surgeons' and Consultants' fees'
- Unlimited annual benefit means you will never have to worry about hospital bills or make up a financial short fall<sup>T</sup>
- ✓ Immediate 30% No Claims Discount rising to 50% after only 4 claim-free years
- occurred before you join may be covered after 2 years\* Guaranteed acceptance from age 60 with no upper

✓ Medical conditions that

- age limit and no medical examination required Tax relief on your premiums, even if you do not currently
- ✔ FREE Pair of "his and hers" wristwatches when you enrol

Subject to policy conditions

†Limits do apply to some out patient acaiments SAGA Private Healthcare is underwritten by Prime Health

For a free quotation and information pack, phone our dedicated Customer Service Team at Prime Health



# The only way to start the week



Miles Kington

very Monday morning there is a programme on Radio 4 called Start the Week, which most of you miss because you have been at work for two hours or are still in bed, so I have programmed the mighty computer here at The Independent to produce a representative sample of the programme, compressed from one hour into three minutes. Any time you feel deprived of Start the Week. just pull this out of your wallet and read it to yourself. Bragg: Hello. Plenty to talk about this week, as we have with us in the studio a

geneticist, sadly not Steve Jones, but Professor Brian Bingham, who has written a new book called Programmed for the Millennium. We have Roger Graft, whose 43-part TV programme A History of Peace starts on BBC1 on Monday. We have Melina Vassentype, who is giving a lecture somewhere tomorrow on "The Potato as Jonathan Miller, who is in a cab somewhere between here and Ealing. We also have Rubella Hastings from The Guardian. Professor Bingham, it's always nice to

have a scientist on the Bingham: Why is it? Bragg: Well, because as an arts chap who has always been over-obsessed with dead writers, I became aware in mid-life that I knew nothing about science, which has had such an effect on our century, and as it was too late to learn much in a meaningful way about science, I thought I could at least invite a few scientists on this programme and hope a bit would rub off. Bingham: Then why not say

Bragg: I have said so.

forced it out of you. To begin with you said, "It is always nice to have a scientist on the programme", which is one of these untested pseudo-scientific theories which a real scientist abhors. Bragg: What a load of tosh. Bingham: And there's

another. Bragg: So, Professor Bingham, I have read your book and I think it's wonderful. What's it about? Bingham: Can't you guess? Bragg: Yes. I've read it. I just want you to tell the listeners what it's about. Bingham: Then why not say

Bragg: Tell the listeners what it is about. Bingham: In my book Programmed for the Millennium, I have put forward the theory that time has a great deal more effect on us than anyone has suspected. We always decry the habit of carving history up into decades, as it seems quite arbitrary, but I think that the human mind reacts to the end of a decade and draws a mental line before going on to a new chapter. Decades are different from each. Centuries do have a different

Bragg: That's fascinating Can you give us an example? SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING. ENTER DR JONATHAN MILLER. Miller: Anyone got £20 for a cab? We came through Harlesden by mistake. Gosh, thanks. DOOR SLAMS. Bragg: I know everyone is dying to get in here. Melina? Vassentype: I have always found time fascinating. I find it fascinating that a Briton and an Australian can have a concept of last Thursday even thought they refer to totally different times. We are asleep when Aussies are awake and vice versa, so in a real sense we don't share experience time at all. Bragg: Is that the sort of thing you mean, Professor? Ringham: No. Bragg: Graft? Graft: Time-wise, I am fascinated by the way you

expect everyone to discuss life and death issues at 9am on Monday and for people out there to digest it all Bingham: That's a better example. SOUND OF A DOOR RE-

OPENING. RE-ENTER JONATHAN MILLER

Miller: Talking of cognition
Bragg: We weren't talking about cognition. Miller: That's strange. You. usually are at 9.28. Bragg: Roger Graft, why a history of peace? What's Wrong with war? Graft: There's nothing wrong with war. It makes really good television. But there is 4 more peace than war, always has been, and I am trying to get us to look at history in ... terms of peace. We love war, so we talk about the Great. War, the 14-18 War. But why don't we talk about the Great 1918-1939 Peace? Bingham: What tosh. Bragg: With respect, Professor, that's my line on this show. Rubella? Hastings: Hi. Bragg: Hi. Now, Melina, why the potato and feminism? Vassentype: Why not? Bragg: Jonathan, do you want to come in on this one? Miller: Which one? Bragg: Well, we could go ontalking about this all day but, sadly we haven't got time. Next week it's a physicist, a historian, a friend of mine who has made a TV series and Taramasalata Dryden.

from The Observer.

Wel

(**25**.00%)

Miles !

base. dial. 1,152.20 ll ye. Cores .... Mark Control teritori.

. ان تانگا Epiteria . Radio . Act

Mark Market (U.S.) Malari ...

See Fact of Taken man · Takh



mum

:han

crisis unfolds.

credit card donations © 01865 312231

Yes, I want to help Oxfam's work in Central Africa. Here is my donation of:

# Welcome to the war of the working week

et ready for the next Euro row. It will con-cern how many hours we may work each week and what our minimum holiday entitlement must be. The rumpus will start tomorrow morning if, as expected, the Government learns that its legal challenge to the 48-hour week directive adopted by the Euro-pean Council of Ministers in 1993 has failed. Stated baldly, the directive provides for a maximum working week of 48 hours; it sets a minimum of four weeks' annual paid holiday and lays down minimum rest periods and rest breaks.

The dispute goes to the heart of Europe's agony over unemployment. The Anglo-Saxon view is that regulation costs jobs, and the legal limits on working hours and legal holiday entitlements are just such an example. To our Euro-pean neighbours, on the other hand, the working-time directive appears an unexceptional measure. They have always had such legislation. Every one of the other 14 members of the EU already imposes limits on working time; likewise, all but Italy have legislated for mini-

mum holidays. Neither Conservative nor Labour governments have ever

11'a(le

acted on these matters. British practice has been completely different. On the Continent wages are high, work forces are more skilled and better trained and personal taxation is less onerous, but companies bear heavy social costs and it is difficult and expensive to make people redundant. In contrast, our labour markets are characterised by low wages, skills improving from a low base, long hours and

light regulation. Until the mid-1980s the Continental system paid off in terms of success in world markets, employment and standard of living. No longer. In Germany and France unemployment is at record levels and still rising, while our trend has been downwards for some time. The Angio-Saxon model is now the more

Entwined in the economic argument, however, is a dispute about the UK's legal oblig-ations. The fact is that the origin of the worksigned by Mrs Thatcher, which paved the way for the Single Market. Member states agreed to encourage improvements in the health and safety of workers and to harmonise such regulations. The British government had no. alternative but to sit down and negotiate the

directive with its partners. In this dispute it is crucial to understand that major changes to the original draft were secured. Qualifications, let-outs, derogations written into the directive, have largely taken the sting out of it. Members states may choose not to apply the working-week provisions to managers, to the family members of family businesses, or to the self-employed. In addition, industries exempted from many of the provisions include sectors where there is a need for continuous working, from hospitals



Andreas : Whittam-Smith

All the other **EU** states already impose limits on working

time

attacking the directive. It argued that the measure had been brought forward under an inappropriate article of the Ireaty of Rome; it was not a health and safety measure where a majority vote could carry the day but a matter of another properties. employment rights, where unanimity is required. This is the basis of the Government's appeal to the European court of Justice, whose judgment will be handed down tomorrow. Of course the UK has had

to electricity production, and industries with seasonal peaks

of activity such as agriculture,

tourism and postal services. More sweepingly, the direc-tive also gives individual coun-tries the right not to apply the

provisions of the 48-hour week, provided that individual work-

ers agree and that refusal is not

subject to pressure. And the

entitlement to four weeks' paid

holiday per year need not be introduced straight away. As a result, when the revised draft

was put to the European Coun-

cil of Ministers in November

1993, the British government

did not vote against the mea-sure: it abstained.

But it found another way of

health and safety regulations since Victorian times, and has regularly updated them. Legislation itself, and custom and practice, have varied according to the nature of individual industries. Hours of work are controlled for safety reasons in industries such as transport. The British approach has been ad hoc. But generally speaking, shorter hours have been seen as an alternative to higher wages and as a measure for sharing work. No compelling evidence has been pleaded to show that shortening hours of work below their present levels would significantly reduce health and

Faced with losing the case, the Government preparing to turn to a third stratagem. As it did in the BSE crisis, albeit unsuccessfully, it will use our veto on other matters to attempt to force our partners into giving us a special opt-out from the working-time directive. Mr Major claims to have received a sympathetic hearing from the French president, Mr Chirac In any case, most of the

This is likely to be worthwhile rather than counter-productive only if the directive as it now stands would reduce employment. The longest hours are worked in mining and quarrying, agriculture, forestry and fishing, folowed by transport and communications. Managers, people in professional occupations and plant operatives also put in long hours. Between 30 and 45 per cent of workers in these categories clock up more than 48 hours a week. But few of these examples would be affected by the directive. Neither the Confederation of british Industry nor the Engineering Employers' Federation are making a big song and dance. As they are not, I don't believe the British government should do so. In a way, it

# A government divorced from reality by Polly Toynbee

of moralisers bellowing family values through the Palace of Westminster con-tinues, day after day. When it reached a climax during the debate on the new divorce law the Government promised to Do Something. Last week, finally, it Did. But after all that hurrumphing and trumpeting, it was a pathetic Something, because in the end, locking people into marriage is not something governments can do.
The Lord Chancellor

announced a "major programme to support projects aimed at preventing marriage breakdown. What will it do? "Marriage organisations are being invited to bid for extra funds with ideas for reducing the incidence and cost of marriage breakdown." How much money is in this fund? Something above £250,000 but under £500,000. The marriage-saving quid pro quo for easier divorce turns out to be very few quid indeed. For all the moral sound and fury, the Treasury remained unconvinced that any more

money would be well-spent. Now that 40 per cent of marriages come to an untimely end, a tidal wave of moral panic is engulfing us. But the amount of money the Canute-like Government has just come up with

is worth about one sandbag. Government figures show that divorce costs the Exchequer £4bn a year, mainly in social security and legal aid. The poor are some four times more likely to divorce than rich complex, and it is their divorces that cost the taxpayer.

Since 1948 the government has partly funded marriage guidance, but waiting lists for counselling often stretch to six or eight weeks. The London Marriage Guidance Council is desperately over-stretched, counselling 5,500 couples a year but with a "horrendous" waiting list of 900 couples and a

Bizarrely, the Lord Chancellor said that public lack of knowledge about the service was a problem, and called for schemes to publicise it. Some Relate regions are keen to set up drop-in centres - but that would cost serious money.

There is a great shortage of counsellors, who are highly trained but unpaid volunteers. To recruit many more, they would need to be paid, but by whom? Clients pay according to their means: each session costs £40 but more than half the clients pay far less. The Lord Chancellor is look-



Maybe if George and Martha had seen the 'catchy, interesting, relevant' marriage video, things would have worked out OK

ing for "innovative schemes", but plainly he wants them Streeter, the minister responsinising the difference between selling. One government idea is an "interactive, multimedia" approach. Would you go into a booth and answer questions about your marriage on a computer screen? Telephone helplines are another proposal, but people would still need to come

m for counselling. The Government is keen on what it calls a "catchy, inter-esting, relevant video". Darn good fun, telling people in a relevant way about the problems that might arise in marriage. It would be given out free at churches and register offices to people getting married.

- who, incidentally, gained his promotion through a reshuffle following the distinctly nonfamily values activities of Rod Richards, the married MP caught in flagrante and obliged to resign. God works in myste-

rious ways.

Gary Streeter was converted to Christianity in 1979 at a Charismatic house church. He calls for the church to lead a moral revival. Entering marriage, he says, "should be like William the Conqueror burning his boats [sic] - an irrevocable

Talking of his own marriage.

This idea comes from Gary the secret, he says, is "recogble for the Marriage Task Force women and men. Men tend to be more logical, women more instinctive. If couples recognise that they don't speak the same language then they can understand each other. A man will say 'Why do you think that?' A woman will say 'I don't know vhy, I just do'. Communication is the key".

Divorce, he says, is a symptom of "our quick-fix culture, the selfishness of modern society and the absence of a framework of love and discipline. It's plain as a pikestaff that in the early years it is mothers who have a special relationship with their children. It is foolish to try

especially for boys who need the presence of a male to develop their personalities. That's the balance of family life." The wisdom of the taxi driver seems to be where the Government draws its philosophy of life. By coincidence, the very day the Lord Chancellor announced

to politically correct that away.

But of course a father is crucial,

his new marriage initiative, a brilliant new production of Edward Albee's 11 ho's Afraid of Virginia Roolf? opened at the Aldwych Theatre in London (left), starring Diana Rigg and David Suchet. It is a raw and bloody slice out of the black heart of marriage. Martha and George, locked together in rage, mutual destruction, drinking themselves into a delirium of marital recrimination and despair. As a portrait of what marriage can become, its truth What would our policy-makers say about George and

Martha? I suppose they would hold them up as a model, heroic couple enduring the unen-durable. Maybe if George and Martha had seen the proposed "catchy, interesting, relevant" marriage video 20 years ago. things would have worked out OK. Maybe that interactive multimedia computer would fix their problem? We could write a new final scene at the end where the marriage guidance counsellor comes down in a cloud, a Dea ex machina.

But what would a good counsellor do? She would step in and prise them apart, telling them that it was time to separate. Just as there is the good marriage, so there is the good divorce. Marriage counsellors have always stressed that their business is not about putting sticking plasters over gangrenous marriages. It is about helping couples to do the right thing and sometimes the right thing is separation. Divorce is not necessarily a disaster. Usu-

People's private lives are not the proper business of politicians and they make asses of themselves when they talk about it. The social problem for politicians is how to reduce the huge cost of divorce to the taxpayer. The Child Support Agency is one solution – if the Government ever dares to track down the resisting fathers and make them pay. Other solutions are equal pay and childcare to ensure women can become breadwinners for their families. That, however, lacks the electioneering pizzazz of a good family-values rant.

# 'Press reports were rather bad: 6,097 killed'

On Armistice Day, one of the last eight survivors of the naval battle of Jutland tells his tale

Now 96 and in very good health, Cap-tain Brian de Courcy-Ireland (right, today, and in 1918) is a veteran of Jutland and the only naval officer alive who witnessed the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet in 1919.

n the early part of 1916 I joined HMS Bellerophon as a "wart" [junior midshipman]. On our first day we were given a good sound dozen lashes by the sub-lieutenant, so from day one we knew our place and that would happen if we stepped out of it. I was 15. On 31 May 1916, we guessed some-

thing was up. We knew nothing, we just had a feeling. I was positioned in the 12-inch turrets working the Dumaresq course and distance calculator. We went into action some time after 5 o'clock. We were kept very busy in the turret and I reckon Bellerophon fired about 100 rounds of 12-inch. It was very noisy. At one point we were told we had sunk a German destroyer. During a lull we came out of the tur-

ret to get some fresh air, and there, floating around us, was a whole mass of bodies and debris. Some of our sailors were cheering because they thought they were Germans, but unfortunately they were from HMS Invincible. It was a terrible sight and my first experience of death. ....

For the night action I was on the bridge, which, looking back, was exciting for a young midshipman. We continued firing into the early hours, then disengaged. We didn't really know what had happened until we got back. The press reports of the battle were rather bad: we had lost 6.097 killed. I had lost 13 of my team of 80, one of whom was Anthony Eden's youngest brother. The ship went into a bit of depression for a few days, but we all suffered it together because we got no leave. We simply went back into

routine patrols of the North Sea. I spent my first Christmas Day in the Navy coaling ship, starting at were sent/To harvest the dreadful mile 5.30am and finishing at opm. We were of beach after the Vanguard went.



doing sweeps of the North Sea. We got a corned beef sandwich at midday and when it was all over we had to scrub

the ship clean. On 9 July 1917, HMS Vanguard, anchored in the next line to us at Scapa Flow, blew up just before mid-night. The explosion was terrific: its magazines went up almost simultaneously. Out of 800 men on board there were only two survivors. I was one of those who walked along the beach of Flotta with a bucket, picking up the remains of the men. Kipling refers to us in his poem The Scholars:

They have touched a knowledge outreaching speech as when the cutters

On 21 November 1918, ten days after the Armistice, I witnessed the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet at sea. By then I was a lieutenant on HMS Westcott. We went out to meet them half-way, fully manned and ready. Everyone was uncertain about what was going to happen.
Out of the mist on that sunny day

it really was quite a sight to see them coming towards us. As the German flag was hauled down at sunset to the sound of a bugle, Admiral Beatty was given a round of cheers by all of us in the Grand Fleet. We escorted them to Rosyth and later round to Scapa Flow. Then we spent a lot of time as guard destroyer looking after their destroyers and smaller ships.

That whole period was really rather dicey for us. You weren't allowed to fraternise and we knew their morale was very poor. I remember going slowly past one of their destroyers whose crew, as always, was trying to barter with us to get some food. I saw a sailor go up to an officer and pluck the Iron Cross off his coat and offer it to us for some cigarettes. The offi-cer could do nothing.

On 21 July 1919, we were having a gin before lunch when a sub-lieunant ran into the wardroom and shouted "The Germans are abandoning ship". We thought at first he was being funny, but we rushed up on deck and indeed they were abandoning ship, every ship. In fact they were scut-

tling them, but there was nothing we could do. Our C-in-C had rather foolishly taken the rest of the Fleet out on exercise and we were the only warship left on duty. We went at full speed towards them to prevent their crews abandoning ship. They took no notice, so we fired a few rounds close to one of them and the whole lot jumped straight over the side! We just stood there and watched this giant cruiser go

down in front of our eyes.

The Hindenburg looked as if she wasn't going down as fast as the others, so the First Lieutenant, myself and about 20 men got on board her. Before her crew had left they had opened all the watertight doors and done everything needed to sink a ship. She was in a had state, full of rust, and all power had been disconnected. so we had to work in the dark and close the hatches. We soon realised that she was gradually going down. and as she was sinking, the water pressure just blew the hatches.

We were beginning to feel a shade anxious and scurried up to the bridge. When the water got up to well over the upper deck we began to get pretty worked up and were seriously thinking of jumping over the side. Fortunately she hit the bottom and settled upright. One of our whaling boats came out and picked us off the

Everywhere we looked we saw mast after mast sticking out from the water. It was an awesome sight. An entire fleet of 71 ships, many of which had fought at Jutland, all scuttled. We were the only warship to witness this extraordinary event.

Eighty years on. I still very much mourn my friends. It is important that we remember their sacrifice and the sacrifice of those who were to follow

Captain Brian de Courcy-Ireland spoke to Max Arthur, who is author of The True Glory of the Royal Navy, 1914-1939', Hodder and Stoughton, £20.

Oxfam Save lives in **Central Africa** 

Ip to one million people in Eastern Uzaire are dying from starvation and disease. Some refugees have been able to flee into Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Tanzania. Oxfam can help them.

We are providing clean water for thousands of those who have escaped the turmoil. You can help us to save

We are doing everything possible, but we need extra funds now to respond as this

Please, give a donation today.

£25 🏻	£50 🗅	£100 🗀	£250 🗆	£
Mr, Mrs, A	Miss, Ms			
<u>Address</u>				

Please send to: Oxfam, Room 8804, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 78R.

# **Lord Sherfield**

Roger Makins ranks among the outstanding Foreign Office figures of the decade following the Second World War.

A man of impressive physical stature and considerable personal charm, he presented the archetypal image of the British diplomat. The son of Brigadier-General Sir Ernest Makins, a Conservative MP, he was born in 1904, and educated at Winchester and Christ Church, Oxford, where in 1925 he took first class honours in History and was elected a ures such as Dean Acheson and Fellow of All Souls.

Two years later he was called to the Bar, but the following year joined the Foreign Office, and gained broad experience in posts as diverse as Washington, Oslo, and the League of Nations. Undisputed intellectual brilliance and prodigious capacity for work endeared him to similarly endowed superiors such as Harold Macmillan, with whom he served in North Africa from 1943 to 1944.

Back in the Washington embassy in 1945, he took charge of atomic energy co-operation and became minister for economic affairs. The latter took up most of his time, and involved working alongside the Russians in tediously protracted conferences of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration or the Food and Agriculture Commission. But both these strands of diplomacy. atomic energy and economic aid, moulded the direction of his career and he became unique among British diplomats in his understanding and experience of these two key factors which underwrote Britain's position in the post-war world. In turn both economic and atomic policy depended on the third and most important area of his expertise, which was Anglo-

American relations. Understandably, given his exceptional capability, he had little time for mediocrity, alternative views, or, for example, for the kind of minor factual errors which peppered the more purple passages of Winston Churchill's wartime telegrams and which he and his colleagues unflinchingly corrected. Later. his unassailable position in the atomic energy project gave him an unusually free hand in policy formulation. Such a strong personality inevitably drew scarcely have had a more acstrong responses, and, though

universally liked. While recognising his ability. Clement Attlee and Hugh Dalton distrusted him, and it says much for the quality of his work that he nevertheless obtained rapid promotion from Assistant

Under-Secretary, but the out-til retirement in 1964, when he going head of the Foreign Of-fice. Sir Orme Sargent, regarded him as too young, and he had already blotted his copybook with Attlee, who suspected Roger Makins of trying to manipulate

Friends, however, enjoyed

his sense of humour. More imnortantly, he was well liked in America, where, during his first appointment to Washington in 1934, he laid the foundation for lifelong friendships with fig-'Chip" Bohlen. Marriage to the daughter of an American Senator ensured frequent visits to the United States even in wartime and this connection later confirmed his popularity in the White House and State Department where he was dubbed "Mr Atom", and where with his large and happy family he was regarded as the least

"stuffy" British diplomat of his

generation. At a time when the whiff of cultural superiority was still strong in the Foreign Office, and marked in the Washington Em-bassy, this was an invaluable asset for a confirmed Atlanticist who believed fervently in the "special relationship", and was prepared to move mountains to maintain it. He skilfully deflected Bevin's European Union and the United Nations' ECE to promote Britain's best interests, as he saw them, under autonomous American regulation of the European Recovery Programme (the Marshall Plan). This led to the setting up of the OEEC (Organisation for European Economic Cooperation), in which he played

Despite his central role in setting the direction of Britain's post-war policy, it is for his work in atomic energy that Makins is best remembered. In 1945, knowing nothing of science, he was happily inducted into the complex and arcane world of nuclear energy by the best brains in the field. It was he who led the British team in Washington in the feverish diplomatic activity before Hiroshima, and who from 1947 be came Attlee's principal adviser on atomic affairs, and Churchill's after him.

In Sir Roger Makins, who be-

a major part.

came Ambassador to the United States in 1953, Britain could commodating representative at held in great awe, he was not a time when the Suez crisis was to bring Anglo-American relations to their lowest pitch. Back in Britain in October 1956 he he came Joint Permanent Under-Secretary at the Treasury with Sir Norman Brook, before returning in 1960, as chairman, to Under-Secretary in 1947 to what had be come almost his

received a peerage, taking the title Lord Sherfield. Yet the accolade which gave him most pleasure came in his eighties with his election, in 1986, as Fellow of the Royal Society. It was recognition of the exemplary part he had played in the de-velopment of British atomic

Few diplomats of that generation rivalled Roger Makins's range of abilities and fewer still forged a career so influential to the course of post-war British foreign policy.

Jill Edwards

In the last 30 years there has been no more assiduous attender at the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in Parliament than Roger Makins, Lord Sherfield, writes Tam Dalyell. He was our president from 1969 to 1973.

His contributions at the meetings in the annex to Westminster Hall or in Committee Room 14 were concise and invariably well-informed. Latteran octogenarian and then a nonagenarian - those of my colleagues who had not even been born when Makins was British ambassador in Washington could only marvel at this man's interest in and concern for the future; he had the mind and humour of a man half his age.

Parliament and science owe something else to Makins. He did as much as anybody to drive through the idea of Select Committees on Science and Technology, and from 1984 to 1987 he was the chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology.

The Lords Select Committee was a more serious body than the Commons Select Committee, for two reasons. First, MPs have many things which pull them out of sessions and make them like grasshoppers flitting in and out and sometimes not attending a session; the Lords having committed themselves to membership tend to give undivided attention. Secondly, in the House of Lords there are heavyweight scientists, Fellows of the Royal Society in their own right who cut a great deal of ice on account of whom they are for the witnesses which come before a committee.

Sherfield, albeit not a scientist himself, had been the accounting officer for the Atomic Energy Authority. I remember in 1963 when I was a new member of the Public Accounts Committee the sheer competence of his presentation on nuclear power; of which spontaneously at dinner afterwards Deputy Under-Secretary in natural habitat, the United Sir William Penney and as the British government's 1948. The same year, aged 44, Kingdon Atomic Energy Auother nuclear heavyweights representative at General he was mooted for Permanent thority. Here he remained un-vouchsafed their admiration.



for elect to the United States, arriving at the 'Mr Atom': Sir Roger Makins, right, Britain's an Treasury with the Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, for the Commo

Sherfield was also one of the dynamos who set up that excellent organisation, the Foundation for Science and Technology, a wide discussion group of changing membership which meets at the Roval Society and of which he conceived a need when he was chairman of the governing body of Imperial College London.

My last memory of Roger Sherfield was a 25-minute conversation when he was sitting down at the Savoy Hotel in the ante-room which is reserved to committee members on 21 February this year, before the speech given by Tony Blair to the huge assembled gathering. Sherfield told me that he would like to be remembered as a giv-er of good advice to leading politicians, from his patron

Clement Attlee onwards. He told me that in 1943 he had strongly advised Harold Macmillan, his friend, not to accept Churchill's offer of the rank of Major-General on going

Reluctantly Macmillan took Sherfield's advice. Sherfield then recounted how a grateful Macmillan had returned to him and related the following conversation. Churchill: "I'm going to make you a major-general!" "No you're not," said Macmilian. "I'll be under someone!" "I see what you mean," said Churchill. "Nothing between a Baton and a Bowler.

Makins's advice and Macmillan's instinct to take it prevailed. Makins had had the sagacity to realise that once Macmillan accepted high military rank he would be far more anaesthetised in terms of real influence than if he was the civilian representative of the British government The bounding, loping, almost kangaroo-like figure of the

lithe and tall Roger Makins (only latterly with hearing aids) will remain in the memory of all who knew him, exuding energy.

Roger Mellor Makins, diplomat: born 3 February 1904; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1925-39, Eisenhower's HQ in Algiers. 1957-96; called to the Bar, Inner

Temple 1927; CMG 1944; Minister at British Embassy, Washington 1945-47; Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office 1947-48, Deputy Under-Secretary of State 1948-52; KCMG 1949, GCMG 1955; British Ambassador to the US, 1953-56; KCB 1953, GCB 1960; Joint Permanent Secretary of the Treasury 1956-59; Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority 1960-64; Chairman, Governing Body of Imperial College of Sci ence and Technology, 1962-74; Chairman, Ditchley Foundation 1962-65 (Vice-Chairman 1965-74); created 1964 Baron Sherfield; chairman, Hill Samuel Group 1966-70; President, Parliamentary and Scientific Committee 1969-73; President, BSI 1970-73: Chancellor of Reading University 1970-92 (Emeritus); chairman, Wells Fargo Ltd 1972-84; President. Centre for International Briefing 1972-85; Chairman, House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology 1984-87; FRS 1986;

#### Oliver Anderson

Oliver Anderson was at the centre of a considerable furore when, in 1937, he wrote a sarire on provincial life under the pen-name Julian Pine.

The book, Rotten Borough, was withdrawn by the publisher after just three weeks under threat of a string of libel writs. instigated by, among others, the then Lord Brownlow, a close friend of the Duke of Windsor. The Rotten Borough affair, which achieved national status, with Anderson being pursued around the country by the pride of Fleet Street, would have passed into history, were it not for the fact that the town at the centre of the excitement was Grantham, birthplace of Margaret Thatcher, and that a leading character in the novel was a local grocer and town councillor, identified by many in the 1980s with the benefit of hindsight as the then Prime Minister's late father. As a result Rotten Borough was republished in 1989 under the author's true name and created considerable interest.

Anderson always denied that any of the characters in the novel were based on real persons and, in particular, that Councillor Nurture, the grocer in question, was based on Lady Thatcher's father, Alderman Alfred Roberts. Indeed he claimed to have changed the character, who in the novel is surprised in his shop in flagrante, from a butcher to a grocer, for fear of sailing too close to the wind. Nor, it should be said, was Alderman Roberts among the many local dignitaries who, following Lord Brownlow's lead, claimed to identify themselves among its pages and joined him in his hreats of action.

Anderson was born in the village of Snitterby, some 20 miles north of Lincoln, the second child of the Rector, the Rev Robert Anderson. After the First World War, his father was appointed Rector of Little Ponton, a village a few miles south of Grantham and the family moved to the large and rambling rectory which is now the residence of the actor Richard

Anderson was educated at



the King's School, Grantham, and was subsequently apprenticed as a local journalist in the Grantham office of the Nortingham Guardian and Evening Post. Dutifully reporting the annual round of "dog hangings and pony shows gave him much of the material which was subsequently to find its way into Rotten Borough. His constant companion on these duties was David Wood, latterly Political Editor of the Times, who was then performing the same ... function for the Grantham Journal and became a lifelong

Following the furore of Rotten Borough Anderson went into business, but, on the outbreak of the Second World War, immediately enlisted. He served in the ranks in the Royal Artillery throughout the war, refusing a commission, and taking part in almost the entire North Africa campaign in Northern Europe.

After the war he returned to Grantham, taking up residence with his mother in the village of Harlaxton where he continued to live in the same cottage for the next 50 years. During the 1950s he published a series of comic novels, including Grit and Polish (1951), Ripe for the Plucking (1961), Thorn in the Flesh (1954), and In For a Penny (1950), again based, if more carefully, on the small town and country life which had given rise to Rotten Borough; and a series based around something of a "James Bond" character, Guy Random, including Random Muting (1956) and Random Rapture (1958). In a style which 3 has subsequently been suggested as a forerunner of Tors. Sharpe and others, they achieved a not inconsiderable success and a faithful following but, as his style of humour passed out of fashion in the early 1960s, he turned his hand to more serious work. His last published novel, The Last Mirage, was published in 1969.

Thereafter Anderson continued to live in Harlaxton, delighting in observing the comic potential in everyday village life. Anderson was a true countryman, until quite recently walking 10 or 12 miles each day and relying solely on his bicy-cle for trips further afield. He had a particular gift for communicating with children and young people, ever prepared to converse well into the early hours and inspiring a number of them to take up literary or journalistic careers. Although, as his novels clearly indicate, he was by no means immune to the attractions of female com-

panionship, he never married. **Andrew Bond** 

Oliver Charles Anderson, writer. born Snitterby, Lincolnshire 30 September 1912; died Harlaxton, Lincolnshire 19 October 1996. 🌑

#### John Bauldie

For those still prepared to con- his subscribers), the Telegraph sider Bob Dylan a god. John Bauldie sat at his right-hand side. For if Bauldie's wasn't the and the frequently fascinating word of god, then the Telegraph - the quarterly journal he edit- the wonderings and wanderings ed from its inception in his of its self-styled "Bobcats". Romford living-room in 1981 until he died in the same helicopter crash that killed his friend Matthew Harding and three others – was, for many of

us, the next best thing. itators in the notoriously lacklustre world of music fan magazines, then a casual perusal of its perfect-bound, immaculately designed pages reveals why: sumptuously upholstered with colour shots often snapped

was a masterly concoction of hard fact, inspired hypothesis anecdotal chaff that accredited

A fan since 1964, when he

was first alerted to The Freewheelin' Boy Dylan (his second album) by a schoolyard chum. the Telegraph was as much a tribute to John Bauldie's skills as If the Telegraph begat few im- an editor and occasional agitator the way, for example, no fan of Dylan's increasingly incessant touring), as it was its quarry, Bauldie's was a reputation not lauded by a scant few "Dylanheads" either - the Telegraph boasted a world-wide subfrom the first few rows of Dy-scriber's list of 20,000. And lan's shows (seats that Bauldie such was John Bauldie's auwould often secure on behalf of thority, the artist's own office



approached him to write the liner notes to the 1993 Bob Dylan: The Bootleg Series Volume 1-3, for which he received a Grammy Award nomination. A friend and fellow author of

Antoine de Bougainville, navigator,

books about Dylan, the American journalist Paul Williams, rates Bauldie's efforts as Scholarship in the best possible sense. He amassed an extraordinary trove of responsible information. It was of such a high level of intellectual quality, information naturally gravitated to it. (Dylan, too. confessed a sneaking admiration, telling his "Boswell" at their solitary meeting in 1986; Yeah, I've seen that, It's pretty interesting.")

My own introduction to John Bauldie was via a note I found waiting for me on my first day as Production Editor at Q in 1993. The handwritten welcome from Bauldie, the magazine's first and only sub-since its launch in 1987, proved to be the perfect introduction to a man

who prized erudition, concision and, where appropriate, a dry Lancastrian humour above all else (excepting, perhaps, a glass of gratis Veuve Cliquot).

Of course, his reputation went before him the was, after all, the co-compiler of two anthologies of the Telegraph and Oh No. Not Another Bob Dylan Book, and had also published accounts of Dylan's 1966 tour, The Ghost of Electricity", and, later, his own on-the-road musings, Diary of a Bobcat).

As a Dylan fan anxious to turn an enjoyment of the music into an appreciation of his artistry, John Bauldie was swiftly cast in the role of my patient teacher, the weary grace with which he bore my routinely banal inquiries doubtless perfected during the years he had spent in his native Bolton as an English lecturer.

married 1934 Alice Davis (died

1985; two sons, four daughters);

died 9 November 1996.

I once asked Bauldie - during one of the many longueurs happily necessitated by the production of a monthly magazine like Q - which, if he were forced to choose, would be give up: Bob Dylan or his beloved Bolton Wanderers. With what I considered at the time to be indecent haste, he answered simply "Dylan". It was while returning from watching his team beat Chelsea 2-1 that John Bauldie's irreplaceable life was so cruelly

**Bill Prince** 

John Bauldie, journalist and writer: born Bolton, Lancashire 23 August 1949; died 22 October

# George Oslin

George Oslin was the telephone executive who invented

the singing telegram.
On 28 July 1933, he organised a Western Union operator named Lucille Lipps to serenade the singer Rudy Vallee on the occasion of his birthday and thus created a durable and surprising form of communication that would over time develop into the stripo-gram and other cheerful derivations.

Before his death. Oslin recalled that as public relations di-rector for Western Union his idea was to persuade people that messages should be fun and to shake off the association of receiving a telegram with

bereavement. At the time, he was informed by his employers that he had

made a laughing stock of the company but America emharked on what Oslin described as a "zany musical binge" and telephone operators became telegram-singers, learning to adapt messages to the popular tunes of the day.

Western Union made millions from the service but by 1974 the demand for singing telegrams had declined and were discontinued only to be resumed six years later offering one tune - "Happy Birth-- which is still available dav\*

**Edward Helmore** 

George P. Oslin, telephone company executive: born West Point, Georgia 1899; married (two daughters); died Delray Beach, Florida 24 October 1996.

#### Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

REDING: Maureen, beloved wife of Paul and death lossed mother of Jonathan and Nick, on 6 November, aged 68. Funeral at Mortlake Cre-matorium, SW 44, on 15 November, at 3.30pm. No flowers, but donations lease to the Princess Alice Hospice.

COLCHESTER: A memorial service for

London SEL For GAZETTE, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The there and the basic of Blastourth around a reoption of the lattice of Blastourth around a reoption of the lattice of Blastourth around a retorion at the lattice of Blastourth and the 2th artocologies, starts the shorth-more fact hear the lattice of the lattice

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Professor Thomas Alibone, physicist.

3; Miss Bibi Andersson, actress 61; Mrs Line Barker, finance director, London Stock Exchange, 47: Lord Carr of Hadley, former Home Secretary, 80: Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 71: Lord Dainton, Chancellor ot Shettield University, 82; Mr Jonath in Fealty, Editor, South China Morring Post, 54; Mr Roy Fredericks cricketer and politician, 54: Mr Ron Greenwood, former football manager, 75; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, deputy chairman, GEC-Marconi, 66; Sir Martin Jacomb, Chairman, British Council, 67; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Ostord University, 76; Sir Harold Kent QC. Commissary to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral. 93: Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 49; Mr Derek Milton, former High Commissioner to Jamaica and ambassador to Haiti, nl: Dr Indrantasad Patel, economist, 72; Professor Colin Platt, medieval historian, 62; Mr. Terence Rooney MP. 40: Mr Richard Rowe, racehorse trainer, 37; Mr John Sheffield, former chairman, Noteros, 83: Sir Peter Shepheard, architect, 83. Mr Kurt Vonnegut, novelist, 74: General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief, Alfied Forces, Northern Europe, 84; Miss June Whitfield, actress, 71: Lord Wolson, chairman, Wolson

Foundation, 69. Anniversaries

Births: Prace Ottavio Piccolomina, London EC1: Madeleine Bunting, military commander, 1599; Louis-

1729; Johann Kaspar Lavater. founder of physiognomics, 1741; Feodor Mikhailovich Dostocysky, author, 1821; Paul Signac, painter, 1863; Jean-Edouard Vuillard, painter, 1868; Rene Clair (Chomette), film director, 1898. Deaths: Jo-hann Zolfany (Zauffely), painter. 1810: Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, philosopher, 1855; Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1936, Jerome David Kern, composer, 1945; Sir Alan Patrick Herbert, author, 1971; Cyril Vernon Connolly, author and critic, 1974; James Hardey, novelist and playwright, 1985; Veacheslay Mikhailovich Molotov (Skriabin). Russian leader, 1986; Eamonn Andrews, television presenter, 1987. On this days on armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany, 1918; the two minute silence for the dead of the First World War was first observed, 1919; the Cenotaph in Whitehall was unveiled. 1930; the first video recorder was demonstrated, Beverly Hills, California 1952; Ian Smith made a unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Adele Elliott, "Collage and Montage" Gresham College, Barmand - Inn Hall,

"The Media and Religion", 5.30pm

Bartholomes of Grottaferrata, St

Mannas of Egypt, St Martin of Tours and St Theodore the Studie.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law

Cbildren

Re C to minor) (Local authority: asessmenti: CA (Butler-Sloss, Waite, Roch LJJ) 30 Sept 1996. A court making an interim

care order in favour of the local authority had power under s 38(6) of the Children Act 1989 to give a variety of directions as to the medical, psychiatric or other assessment of the child. Regrettably, that power fell short of enabling the court to direct the authority to accode to the parents' wish that both they and the child be placed at a residential assessment centre pending the hearing of final care proceedings. It was particularly unfortunate for these very young parents as the fostering alternative favoured by the authority effectively removed their only chance of obtaining a final

order in their favour. A.A. Rumbelon QC, A.P. Hayden, Gillian Irving (Noveross Lees & Riches, Odham, Temperley Taylor Chadwick. Mukileton) for the parents; Lesley Newun (Booth & Middleum, Oldham) for the guardian ad litem. Jean France Hayinust (Andrew Jelfnes, Oldham) for the

Insurance Sumitomo Bank Ltd v Banque Brux-

elles Lambert SA: QBD (Comm Ct) (Laneley J) 2 Oct 1996. The plaintiff banks, which lent

money secured by mortgage with the benefit of mortgage indemnity insurance, were not under a duty of disclosure to the insurers. The extent of the duty of disclosure was defined in the policies and was expressed to be the duty of the insured. The banks were not the insured because they had appointed the defendant underwriter as their agent. Therefore the duty of disclosure, as defined in the policies, was placed with the defendant alone as the insured, and the defendant had to take reasonable care in fulfilling that duty and was liable for any failure to do so. Garm Kealey QC. David Edwards (Cliffire! Chance) for the plaintiffs: Peter Scott QC. David Raihon (Linklaters & Paines)

for the defendant. Liquidator

Ward v Aitken & ors; Re Oasis Merchandising Services Ltd; CA (Peter Gibson, Otton, Hutchison LJJ) 9 Oct 1996. A liquidator's right, under s 214 on the Standard scale for each Nicholas Hilliard (CPS) for the

CASE SUMMARIES

11 November 1996

of the Insolvency Act 1986, to day on which an offence con- Tax sue directors of the failed company suspected of wrongful trading was not "the company's property" and so fell outside the liquidator's statutory power to sell such property. He could not therefore validly agree with a third party for them to meet the costs of the s 214 proceedings in return for a share of the proceeds, if any, recovered from the directors. Such an agreement was champertous unless the third party had, independently of the agreement. a bona fide interest in the fruits of the action.

Robert Wright QC (Includes Brown Benntson & Garrett) for the third party; Elspeth Talket Rice Uny Benning Levine & Pel:) and Robin Dicker (Ashgrit Morris Cresp) for the directors.

Magistrates Canterbury City Connell v Ferris; OB Div Ct (Simon Brown I.J., Gage J) 7 Oct

Magistrates had a discretion. when imposing a fine for continuinº failure to abate a nuisance, to impose a lesser fine than the one-tenth of Level 5 securing their rehabilitation.

of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, since s 80 did not expressly limit the magistrate's discretion under s 34(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 to impose such a lesser fine. Gregory Dowell (Canterbury City Council) for the appellant; the respondents did

Sentencing R v Hodgson; CA (Cr Div) (Bingham LCI, Biofeld, Cresswell JJ) 17 Oct

Section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which gave the court additional control over sexual offenders, affected both the period which the offender would serve if recalled to prison after release on licence and the period for which he would continue to be supervised after release on licence. In making an order the court's primary considerations were the need to protect the public from serious harm and the desirability of preventing offenders committing further offences and

Attorney-General: Thomas Easton? (Jacobi & Co. Ellennere Port) for the

tinued as laid down by s 80(5) R v Revenue Adjudicator's Office, ex p Drummond; QBD (Turner J) 6 August 1996.

The Revenue Adjudicator's Office was entitled to refuse a taxpaver access to a letter about his affairs which had been sent in by an informant. Although the taxpaver's alfairs had been investigated, it had not been as a result only of the letter but also of other information. The allegations had only been used to indicate lines of inquiry which were independently pursued. It was necessary that confidential sources of information were

protected. The taxpayer in person; the Revenue did not appear.

CORRECTIONS: In Ry Human Fer 1 5te tilisation & Embryology Authority, ex p Blood (Law Report, 23 October), solicitors for the applicant were Leigh Day & Co. In Rv Parking Adjudicator, ex p Wandsworth (Law Report, 7 November), Alan Wilkie QC and Ranjit Bhose appeared for Wandsworth and Richard Gordon QC for the adjudicator.

حكذا من الأصل

ther crast

sm killec

:n un Air

ied off thi

in the tot

tary cam

i Iran Ai the Gult

i Koreai

a down by

ling 26°

st crasi

7 crasheo

domesti-. A Turk rtheast of 4, killin audi Ara ed. killint an emer

ih airnor es DC-1. in Chica ÷ 1979.

-air coll ash of p

nair forc cilled 15 1992. Th assenger oeing 74parachur

othe

# Allied Domecq searches for a tonic to improve its dismal performance

Shares of Allied Domecq have the dubious distinction of turning in the weakest performance of any of the drink giants. The group could be ac-

cused of staggering from one

mishap to another, often outmanoeuvred by its major rivals. The Teacher's Scotch whisky to Beefcater gin group is due to roll out results tomorrow. If they are not disappointing the stock market will be suspicious. It is, however, the accompanying trading statement and any hint new chairman Sir Christopher Hogg gives about Allied's future direction which

will capture most attention.
Allied, created in the late 1950s when three leading breweries indulged in a defensive merger to challenge the activities of a Canadian takeover marauder, is in the process, Whitehall permitting, of retiring from the beerage by selling. its struggling Carlsberg Tetley arm, still the third-largest brewer in the country.

The group, it could be argued, has squandered its once-proach. It would also offer a proud brewing heritage and must now rely on its retailing

and spirit operations.
It had been hoped that Sir Christopher would take the view that international spirit brands, a sprawling and diverse chain of pubs, the Dunkin Donuts outlets, Baskin Robbins ice cream and the Victoria Wine off-licences are not an ob-

If Hanson and Thorn EMI can split disparate businesses, why not Allied? It could join the demerger trend by dividing itself into two stand-alone companies - retailing and spirit production and distribution. Although it became clear at the weekend that Sir Christopher has rejected the demerger idea, there is no doubt many in the market will continue to press

for the group to do the splits.
Such a move would make undoubted sense, probably al-

fresh start, perhaps giving Allied the opportunity to throw accident-prone group.

Its catalogue of woes in-clude a £147m loss in a foreign exchange fiasco, splashing out around £700m for the Pedro Domecq brandy and sherry business just before its major market, Mexico, went in sharp decline, and selling off its food division at mostly disappoint-ing prices. It could also be argued it mistimed its departure from brewing. If it had followed the Greenalls example and quit before the Beer Orders were enforced, it would have avoided having to sell pubs at bottom-of-the-barrel prices during the recession.

There is a feeling the mar-ket has not fully appreciated the belated retreat from brewing. It will, sooner or later, free Allied from what is regarded as lowing both operations to an onerous price agreement

De Basse De De Basse De Company d

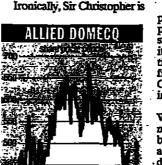
TOTAL PARTIES AND PARTIES AND



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

with Carlsberg Tetley and allow the chain to buy pubs - perhaps mounting a bid for a high-pro-



computing

Canon B100 fax machine, so small it Can fit anywhere

**Government Securities** 

100% a.b. 78
100% a.c. 646
100

For further information, freephone 0500 246 246.

### WEIGHT Hand Main Congress of Congress

no stranger to the demerger art. He managed it at Courtaulds, splitting the group into chemical and textile operations.

The two Courtaulds companies have survived as independents. There is, however, a strong belief that Allied's spirits side would quickly fall victim to a takeover bid, probably from Guinness, although Grand Metropolitan could be interested.

Peter Lucas and Nick Williamson at Credit Lyon-nais Laing believe Allied's break-up value is around 550p a share against 484.5p on Fri-

Allied is clearly in the last chance saloon. If its performance does not improve it is

likely to fall victim to a takeover bid; possibly a breakup exercise. Tomorrow's yearly profits are expected to come out at £560m, before the ravages of exceptional costs. Last year the group produced

British Steel is another facing a setback. Its interim profits, due today, are likely to reflect the fall in stainless steel prices. Around £250m against £550m is expected. But, here again, figures may be over-shadowed. Hopes are running high the group could indulge in a share buyback or, in view of the Government's tax clampdown, a special dividend. British Steel has had a rather dull market existence since it was privatised at 125p a share

eight years ago.
Two insurance giants are likely to maintain the lower profits theme. General Accident and Commercial Union are expected to be the casual-

Of Exploration

### Article | 151 | 152 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153

2009年2月12日 | 1000年2月12日 | 1000年2月 |

5521 TF 9% 08
8400 TF 9% 08
1-04825
4750 TF 6 4% 10
5275 CW 9% 11
5275 CW 9% 15
5280 TF 9% 65
500 TF 7 48 5.5
1000 TF 5 48 5.7

| Secondary | Seco

sults. Nine-month figures from General Accident should emerge at around £310m (£350m) and Commercial Union should produce £345m. down from £383m.

BT, with second-quarter profits, is another in retreat. About £680m is the guess against £732m last time. The telephone giant is another where mere figures are over-shadowed; in its case by the giant merger with MCI, the US group. Since scoring an early gain on the deal its shares have given ground as it has come under pressure in some quarters over the merits of such an ambitious and costly jump into a highly competitive

Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull is a voice raised in support of BT Analysis John Tysoe and Andrew Moffat say: "The merger shifts the company's focus away from the narrow restrictions of the LJK market on ties of poor underwriting re- to the world stage at a time

when the market is embracing the concept of competition for the first time. There is a huge opportunity in the domestic USA as that market prepares for full competition.

BAA, the airports group, flies in with interim figures today. A modest advance to £303m is forecast by Nat West Securities. Still, with its regulatory pricing regime settled for the next five years, a relatively low political risk factor and an increasing flow of income from unregulated operations, it should have an encouraging future.

The group's more aggressive approach was illustrated by its free operations of Aliders, the department store chain. It was outpriced by Swissair. There are suggestions it could become more involved with Alpha Airports, where Harrods chief Mohamed Al Fayed last week picked up the 25 per cent interest Granada inherited from

The independent index

00 01 02 03 UK Company News Foreign Exchange

**Interest Rates** 

Prime Discount Fed Funds

Telecontinuenta attions

2556 81 307 1

2556 81 307 1

2556 81 307 1

16077 HT history 907

16077 HT history 907

16077 HT history 907

1607 HT history 907

ΌÜ

# business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER



# France asks SFO to investigate Eurotunnel shares

Magnus Grimond

The Serious Fraud Office said vesterday it would investigate alleged insider dealing in Euro-tunnel shares following a request by the French authorities to Michael Howard, the

home secretary.

Eight or nine of Britain's leading banks and financial institutions are said to be at the centre of the probe, amid claims that insiders are profiting from

As well as dealing a further blow to Eurotunnel shares, the controversy looks set to further tarnish the reputation of the City, which is still reeling from scandals involving improper trading at Morgan Grenfell and Robert Fleming.

A spokesman for the SFO, James O'Donoghue, said yes-terday: "The Serious Fraud Of-

privileged information about fice has agreed to investigate, on the Anglo-French Channel tunbehalf of the French authorities, it's not surprising that the focus allegations of market manipu-

lation in Eurotunnel shares."
But he said Britain's top antifraud body would not launch its own investigation. "We do not have grounds to investigate market manipulation on a do-mestic level. You have to remember that the bulk of shareholders in Eurotunnel are French, and most dealings in Eurotunnel have taken place in

it's not surprising that the focus should be over there." The in-UK by French fraud police last week, will be led by Chris Dickson, who heads overseas investigations for the SFO.

Sir Alastair Morton, the former British chairman of the group, and his French opposite number, Patrick Ponsolle, have complained vociferously and publicly about volatile move-

ments in the share price, which they claim resulted from leaked information and rumours startquiry, which follows a visit to the ed by market operators. The

company welcomed the inquiry.
The SFO denied that it was acting under political pressure in taking on the case, despite its admission that it did not have enough evidence to launch an investigation on its own. It emerged over the weekend that the London Stock Exchange has already looked into dealings in

surveillance department and has been unable to substantiate allegations of insider dealing in

the London market. Suggestions that the group's share price was being manipulated date back at least as far as its second rights issue, which raised £850m in 1994. The Comité des Operations de Bourse, the French equivalent of the Stock Exchange council, be-gan investigations just before that

Eurotunnel shares through its cash call, but appeared to get nowhere. However, in Septemher the Swiss authorities were brought in and, according to a newspaper report yesterday, the French are pointing the finger at "suspicious operations" involv-

ing banks in Geneva and Zunch. The SFO has wide powers to interview people and recover documentary evidence in the pursuit of an investigation, which does not have to relate to frauds committed within its jurisdiction.

#### CBI conference: Warning for Eurosceptics as poll of business shows growing support for EMU

# Industry says yes to single currency

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark in Harrogate

Business leaders last night predicted that Europe would move to a single currency in 1999 as a survey showed that industry was backing Britain's participation in economic and monetary union by two to one.

Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "If anything, business is moving in a more Europhile direction.

He was speaking as the CBI published a poll of 1,700 businessmen on the eve of its national conference in Harrogate showing that more than half of firms – 56 per cent – supported EMU in principle while 30 per

cent were opposed. Business leaders were also increasingly in favour of Britain being in the first wave of monetary union. The proportion of firms who thought the pound should enter a single currency in 1999 had gone up from 19 per cent a

year ago to 28 per cent now.
Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI's The captains of British induspresident, said he believed there try tested out the country's would be a single currency in 1999 and that Britain should not rule out the option of joining.
"The single market is of vital

importance to our future success and while there is still a split in views over EMU there is little enthusiasm for ruling it out as an option." he said. "To reject it now would give us no say as to how the Euro-coin eventually falls."

The business community's broad endorsement of EMU was coupled with a warning to the Government that the Eurosceptic wing of the Tory Party was damaging Britain's eco-nomic industry. David Richardson, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, which jointly published the survey, said: "There is a strong view that it is our politicians that are letting us down. The message from business is clear: stop playing games with our future in

The theme of Europe and the single currency is set to dominate the next two days in Harrogate with the conference culminating in a debate be-Cabinet minister John Red-

tween Europhiles and Euro-sceptics, led by the former wood, debating the issue on

newly-privatised rail network

over the weekend - but found

that when it comes to getting there you cannot beat the mo-

tor car, writes Michael Harrison.

eral of the CBL, decided to let

the train take the strain as he

journeyed up from London to

Harrogate on Saturday night

for the organisation's annual

Adair Turner, director gen-

any extension of qualified majority voting on Social Chapter slation. "I can assure you that not only do we have no plans to

Chancellor, is expected to move Labour towards a more probusiness stance on Europe when he addresses the conference today. Mr Brown will tell delegates that Labour would oppose

Gordon Brown, the shadow

beauo. He had got little more than halfway when he discov-

ered that Railtrack and Great

North Eastern Railways – what

used to be BR's East Coast

His InterCity 125 arrived at

Newark station in Notting-

hamshire and stayed there for

two bours. Passengers were

eventually told that vandals

had stolen the signalling cable

between Newark and Retford.

Mainline - had other ideas.

extend qualified majority voting in these areas, but we would veto any attempt to do so," he will

Facing up to it: Adair Turner, the CBI director general, shows his Prince's Trust mask at the start of the conference.

The CBI/BCC survey, carried out in November by Mori among 5,000 businesses, shows that only 10 per cent of businesses back a single currency outright, believing it essential to

dered it to take him the re-

maining 80 miles to the Moat

The taxi fare was £80, a sum

Mr Turner intends to claim

back. He can either send the

House Hotel, Harrogate.

The masks will be auctioned for charity in London at the end of November

UK business. However, there is an even smaller minority of just 7 per cent of firms who say that Britain should reject a single currency point blank.

Sir Colin said the results disproved claims that business had

become more Eurosceptic over the past year. He also rejected suggestions that the business community was split over EMU,

The privatised rail operators are not obliged to cough up a penny in compensation when the cause of the delay was not their direct fault. Some things

saying: "Business and industry across the country and across the spectrum from large to small enterprises are in favour of the move to EMU and a single cur-

Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzelian

But he refused to be drawn on whether the CBI would much as £400m for its Lazard throw its wholehearted support behind Britain's membership of the first phase of EMU. The behind Britain's members exercise among members immediately after the conference with the aim of making a firm recommendation in the middle of next year after the

while Britain was unlikely to meet the requirement to keep the public deficit to less than 3 per cent of GDP, it was much more important that it met the target of limiting overall debt to 60 per cent of national output.

### City takes the pressure off Pearson chiefs

Media Editor

The new management at Pearson, the beleaguered media conglomerate, is to get a honeymoon period to develop a coherent strategy, according to leading City institutions. Swirling takeover rumours

and steady criticism of the com-pany's diverse mix of media assets meant outgoing managing director Frank Barlow and chairman Lord Blakenham were under intense pressure to

break the company up. But according to several top institutional shareholders, the chief executive-elect, Majorie Scardino, and Dennis Stevenson, who will take over as chairman next year, will get what one fund manager called "the benefit of the doubt" as they attempt to steer the company to

a clearer strategy.

The news will be welcome at Pearson, which has already reviewed plans to sell its stake in Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, as well as its theme park operation, grouped under Madame Tussauds.

According to a report pub-lished today by Henderson Crosthwaite, the institutional

the Lazard management. Of this, about £305m would remain following capital gains tax, Tussauds could generate £267m net of tax and expenses, while the rump 4 per cent stake still held in BSkyB could fetch another £245m after tax.

Henderson's media analyst, Louise Barton, also recommends the sale of Mindscape, the CD-Rom manufacturer. She estimates a gain of about £141m, after taking into account a capital loss on the transaction of £250m. Ms Barton said: "The net return from the sale of the stakes in BSkyB and Mindscape would more than offset the dilution caused by the sale of Lazards and Tussands.

All told, the sales would net about £1bn after expenses, leaving the company with net cash of about £500m. "New Pearson would then have better cash flow and hold leading market positions in three core areas," Heily derson Crosthwaite argues: These would be business and professional information (including the Financial Times Group), consumer publishing (Pearson, Addison-Wesley-Longman and Pearson New Entertainment) and broadcasting (including Thames Television and a stake in Changel 5).

970

721

4113

#### PEARSON – what it's really worth employers' organisation is to begin a mass consultation | Business & Profes Taking the train can be a strain Financial Times, Extel Consumer Publishing (Penguin Books, educational publish Broadcasting Services (Thames Television, Grund An alternative route was claim form to Jim Sherwood, plotted via Lincoln but by then whose Sea Containers Group election. owns Great North Eastern Rail-The CBI added that it did not Mr Turner, travelling with his ways, or Chris Garnett, broth-Other Income approve of member states fudgpersonal assistant, had had ing the figures in order to qualify for EMU. But it said that enough of the railways. He er of Heritage Secretary Virginia Corporate Expenses and Provisions marched outside the station, Bottomley, who runs the busijumped into a mini-cab and orness. But one word of caution. Total Value 5531

# £1.3bn US bid for East Midlands

#### Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Dominion Resources, the US electricity and gas company, is exrected to launch a formal £1.3bn takeower bid for East Midlands Electricity this morning. Last night Dominion's UK

advisers, investment bankers

SBC Warburg, were believed to

be putting together the finishing touches to the offer with their US counterparts, buyout specialists Wasserstein Perella. The bid will probably value East Midlands shares at between 630p and 650p, giving a price range of £1.25bn to £1.3bn. The shares closed on

Friday at 593.5p.

The takeover bid will be the second by a US company for a privatised regional electricity company in the space of two weeks. Northern Electric is fighting a £760m all cash offer from CE Electric, which is ma-



Nigel Rudd: Has not had a

jority owned by the American power generator CalEnergy. If both bids are successful, it would leave just three RECs still independent: London, York-

firmed it was considering making a bid for East Midlands but would not be prepared to pay much more than 608p a share, valuing the Nottingham-based business at £1.2bn. The final decision on the price will rest with Dominion's board.

East Midlands executives were yesterday evening prepar-ing their response to a bid with advisers from the merchant banking group Schroders.

Despite the fact that Dominion has been eyeing the company since the summer

quest for a meeting with East Midland's directors, including the chairman, Nigel Rudd. An informal approach was made by Dominion last week but until now contacts have been between City advisers. "We will make contact when there's a bid," said a Dominion

there has been no formal re-

ed a potential bidder would have to pay around 670p a share, though Mr Rudd is unlikely to recommend any bid at the outset unless it is closer to 700p, representing a price of around £1.4bn. Dominion, with 1.9 million customers and sales last year of \$4.65bn (£2.8bn), is similar in size to East Midlands. The UK company is widely thought to have been one of the best managed RECs in recent years, having slashed its work-force by almost 40 per cent since

privatisation six years ago. The biggest question mark hangs over the attitude of the regulatory authorities. Fund managers who control most of the shares believe the Government will block both bids on the grounds that they would leave too few stock market-quoted RECs to use for efficiency comparisons. The growing uncertainty has hit the share prices of East Midlands and Northern.

#### ITN to sign cut-price contract with ITV

#### **Mathew Horsman**

ITN, which makes news programmes for ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, will finally reach agreement this week on the controversial renewal of its key contract to supply ITV. The contract to run for five years, will be pitched at just under £42m in the first year, down from £57m year currently, and will be

linked to the rate of inflation. The contract, which had been expected to be signed last month, was held up by a number of disagreements, most recently over the use of regional news pictures produced by ITV companies. ITN, best known for its News at Ten programme, was eager for the right to use news-worthy material even before it ran on regional networks. According to sources at ITV and ITN, agreement was with-

in reach late last week. The contract puts an end to several years of uncertainty for ITN, which had been dogged by ownership questions and a putative bid by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB to

wrest the ITV contract away. Under the terms of the Broadcasting Act, no single company can own more than 20 per cent of a "nominated news supplier," of which ITN is the only one. Following the takeovers of Central Television and LWT by Carlton and Granada respectively, the two ITV giants ended up with 36 per cent each of ITN.

Cariton and Granada agreed to sell their excess stakes to Lord Hollick's United News & Media and Daily Mail & General Trust, in a deal that valued ITN at about £99m. The price of the agreement was a lower per-year price for the una ITV news supply contract. -year price for the main

markétolace for t ews in computing and communications with pages of career opportunitie nese expanding industrie

See Network the 11 page special I.T. section in The Tabloid

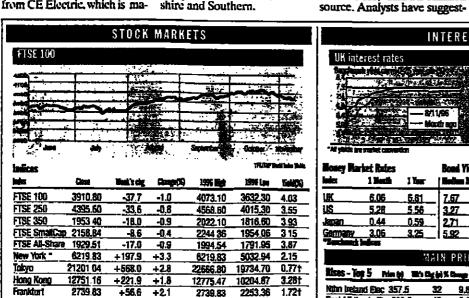
**Vour advertisement ca** 

Every Monday in

Z THE INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT TABLOID

Fig. Warranty



			UK inte	erest rate	S		US interest	rates	
			Inches 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15			1,96 otrago			71/95 onth ago
		اربور بهم روبو معاولات	Honey Har	raistana bei Raies	acin	Bond Yie	<del>45</del> *	State of the state	riter Merdil I vach
1996 <b>Est</b>	<b>بدر 1996</b>	Tele(X)	ledex	1 Month	I Year	Helles &		Long Bood	(X) New Age
4073.10	3632.30	4.03	UKC	6.06	6.81	7.67	7.86	7.78	7.99
4073.10 4568.60	3632.30 4015.30	4.03 3.55	UK.	6.06 5.28	5.56	7.67 3.27	7.86 5.99	7.78 6.58	7.99 6.33
4568.60	4015,30	3.55	US Japan Germany	5.28 0.44 3.06	5.56	3.27	5.99		
4568.60 2022.10	4015.30 1816.60	3.55 3.93	US Japan Germany	5,28 0.44	5.56 0.59	3.27 2.71	5.99 2.99	6.58	
4568.60 2022.10 2244.36	4015.30 1816.60 1954.06	3.55 3.93 3.15	US Japan Germany	5.28 0.44 3.06	5.56 0.59 3.25	3.27 2.71 5.92	5.99 2.99	6.58	
4568.60 2022.10 2244.36 1994.54	4015,30 1816,60 1954,06 1791,95	3.55 3.93 3.15 3.87	JS Japan Germany Technoli	5.2f 0.44 3.06	5.58 0.59 3.25	3.27 2.71 5.92	5.99 2.99 6.36	6.58	6.33
4568.60 2022.10 2244.36 1994.54 6219.83	4015,30 1816,60 1954,06 1791,95 5032,94	3.55 3.93 3.15 3.87 2.15	LIS Japan Germany "Touchand"	5.28 0.44 3.06 	5.56 0.59 3.25	3.27 2.71 5.92 IN PRIC	5,99 2,99 6,36 E CHANGES Falls - Top 5	6.58 6.78 Price 66 W/s 6	. 6.33 
4568.60 2022.10 2244.36 1994.54 6219.83 22666.80	4015.30 1816.60 1954.06 1791.95 5032.94 19734.70	3.55 3.93 3.15 3.87 2.15 0.77†	LES LEDATO GEOMETRY Touchand Mises - To letter lester	5.28 0.44 3.06 ides 5 Nin t	5.56 0.59 3.25 3.25	3.27 2.71 5.92 IN PRIS	5.99 2.99 6.38 E CHANGES Falls - Top 5 Senior Engin'no	6.58 6.78 Price 66 W/s 6	. 6.33 
4568.60 2022.10 2244.36 1994.54 6219.83 22566.80 12775.47 2739.83	4015.30 1816.60 1954.06 1791.95 5032.94 19734.70 10204.67	3.55 3.93 3.15 3.87 2.15 0.77† 3.28† 1.72†	JANAO Janao Germany "Backmask Rises - To Nitro Irelas East Midia	5.28 0.44 3.06 indess 5 Prim to 15 Prim to 15 Prim to 15 Prim to 15 Prim to 16 Elec 357 ands Elec 59	556 0.59 3.25 3.25 4 <b>u</b> n n <sub>2</sub>	3.27 2.71 5.92 IN PRIS 9.2 9.8 19 9.0	5.99 2.99 6.36 ELCHANGES Falls - Top 5 Sentor Engin'nto British Sky Bros	6.58 6.78 740.00 Was 0 114.5 1 adc 522	. 6.33 - - - - - - - -

INTEREST RATES

£/\$				£/DM				
	2.5			71				
-	٠.٠					•		
Poend 75.	٠.			Bollar 18.				•
	<u> Çiças</u>	Week's Co	<u>Yr Ago</u>		Clear	· The	i's Og.	ir işa
(London)	1.61	47 -0.20c	1.5765	£ (London)	0.6	080 H	0.07	0,6343
(N York)‡	1.64	80 +0.10c	1.5753	£ (N York)‡	0.6	068	-0.04	0.6348
DM (Lendor	1) 2.47	68 - 0.61pf	2.2248	DM (London)	1.5	059 (	.19pf	1,412
f (London)		<del>66 -Y0.57</del> 2		¥ (London)	111,	550 -YI	1215	100.700
E Index	90	0.8 -0.1	83.8	\$ ladex		6.2	unch	93,8
		0	THER IN	DICATORS				
ī	Class	Their selg	Tear Age		<u> </u>	Lejack	ir igo	leat He
XI Brent \$	22.53	-0.21	16.62	RPI 1	53.8+	2.12pc	150.8	14 No
Sold \$	378.90	-1.55	388,85					Jan 2
2-161 C	226 20	- A 66		Danie Plates				<del></del>

CURRENCIES





#### GAVYN L

'Up to now, actù inflation has bee considerably boost by the drop in sterli which happened last year, but the effect is about to turn the other way'

#### Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Job insecurity has increased during the 1990s, contrary to Government claims that there is little evidence to support the phenomenon, according to a report published today.

The main reason for a growing sense of insecurity has been not so much a drop in the average length of time people manage to hold a job as the rising costs of job loss. As miniters have suggested, there has

Tel: 0171 293 2222

# Vhat should we do about the soaring pound?

ne difference between the secand the "first best". Unfortuoeconomic policy is entering a vorld for the first time in at least has been put there by the rise per cent in the sterling exchange it months, and by the fact that y impossible to get back into the orld by tightening fiscal policy :t. This would be the best way

ne pound down. o most people's belief, tighter nlicy generally keeps exchange ecause it encourages markets to iterest rates will be kept low. If, Chancellor cuts taxation in two he markets will fear a consumer spect higher interest rates, and ing higher. This in turn will hit ctor, and further unbalance the ving, which is already biased toes and away from manufacturing. and best world, the key difficulty ignore the behaviour of the exwhen setting domestic interest iank of England's Inflation Reed last week took a strong line stion, arguing that the appreci-1 should have only a minimal omestic monetary policy, and inly not be used as an excuse to g base rates further in the near main plank in the Bank's case ing should not be seen as an in-

mined by other economic variables, such as interest rates, supply side variables (such as oil prices) and the like. Since these variables also determine the inflation rate, it follows that the exchange rate and inflation are actually co-determined by other factors which in turn implies that changes in the exchange rate cannot independently "cause" changes in inflation.

Some will claim that the Bank is taking a tougher line now that the exchange rate is rising than it did in the spring of 1995, when sterling took a nose-dive. At that time, the Inflation Report reacted to the drop in the pound by substantially raising the 12-month forecast for retail prices, and by asking the Chancellor to raise base rates so that any second round effects on wages and prices would not be "accommodated" by monetary policy. By contrast, the recent rise in the exchange rate has not seen any downward revision to the Bank's inflation projection, and the policy recommendation is now to ignore the exchange rate and raise base rates further in coming months.

To the Bank's opponents, this is another example of how Threadneedle Street always errs on the hawkish side of any debate about monetary policy. But the Bank claims it is in fact being completely symmetrical in its approach. The reason why the inflation forecast has not been brought down this quarter as sterling has risen is that domestic inflationary forces have worsened considactor on the scene, but that its | erably since the August Report. These do-

literate jargon, economists often | behaviour should be viewed as being deter- | mestic forces have added at least 0.7 per cent to the underlying inflation rate in the cur-rent quarter, and this is more than enough to swamp any permanent beneficial effects from a higher exchange rate. Hence further base rate rises are needed.

The Bank believes that three factors may have been responsible for the recent rise in sterling. The first is a rise in the "equilibrium real exchange rate", largely driven by rising oil prices. This explains about half of the total rise in sterling. The second factor is a loosening in monetary conditions overseas, which explains a quarter of the rise. The third is an expected tightening in domestic monetary conditions (ie a market expectation that base rates will rise in future), and that too explains about a quarter of sterling's gain. According to the Bank, only the last



of these factors will lead to a permanent drop in inflation, and that will only happen if the expected rise in base rates is actually delivered by the authorities, along the path which is currently anticipated by the financial markets. The upshot of this analysis is that the need for base rate increases has not

been eliminated by the rise in sterling. This approach stands in sharp contrast to the view of some other central banks, notably the Bank of Canada. The latter explicitly takes account of exchange rate movements when setting domestic interest rates, and has actually formalised the process by calculating a monetary conditions index, in which a 1 percentage point change in interest rates is given the same weight as a 3 per cent change in the exchange rate. This procedure, of course, makes no sense if behaviour of the exchange rate is indeed primarily determined by the level of interest rates at home and abroad, but it would make more sense if the exchange rate is subject to "exogenous" shocks which are

unrelated to other economic fundamentals. If, for example, the recent rise in sterling could be attributed to a sustained drop in the risk premium on UK assets, or even to a selffulfilling fad in the foreign exchange markets. then it might make more sense to treat it as a substitute for further increases in base rates. So far, it is difficult to argue that this is the case. But it seems quite likely that the strength of sterling will go further in com-ing months, since the UK is the only major country which is growing rapidly at present, and this is acting as a magnet for speculative capital inflows. With countries such as Japan and Switzerland holding their interest rates at exceptionally low levels, this force will not quickly disappear and could easily gather mo-mentum. It could add up to quite an economic shock, and could certainly have a powerful short-term effect on inflation.

The graph, prepared by David Walton of Goldman Sachs, shows what might have happened to inflation if the exchange rate had remained unchanged at the level reached at the end of 1994. Up to now, actual inflation has been considerably boosted by the drop in sterling which happened last year, but the effect is about to turn the other way, and from the early part of next year the path for in-flation will be sharply held down by exchange rate effects. For a time, this may be enough to keep inflation below the Government's target, but the target is still likely to be exceeded before the end of next year, and the main trend is probably now upwards.

This inflation profile supports the Bank's case for base rates to rise further, unless there is a really marked additional rise in sterling from present levels. If that occurs, then the policy choices will not be enviable ones. Base rate rises could cause the pound to overshoot upwards; but their absence could result in a rampant consumer boom.

As the Bank hints, the route back to the first best world would be for the Chancellor to slow domestic demand by tightening fiscal policy in the Budget. But, in this preelection period, the Bank might as well be asking for the moon.

# ne rising cost of losing a job adds to insecurity

e decline in the typi-nure – it has actually I since the mid-1980s. er, the exists of henemployed have risen They include longer a unemployment, re-

addition a smaller proportion of the workforce is covered by employment protection legislation than 20 years ago, although this coverage has improved dur-ing the past decade.

The evidence, published by vels of benefits relative the independent Employment ngs, and the lower wage Policy Institute, shows that ople can expect to earn any are re-employed. In the widespread sense of inse-

curity revealed by opinion polls. The report, written by economists Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth at the London School of Economics, identifies three potential causes of insecurity: shorter job tenure, weaker job protection, and increased costs of unemployment. The average length of time in a job fell from 6 years 1 month job.

in 1975 to 4 years 5 months in 1990, and has climbed back to 5 years 6 months since then. Job tenure for men, especially the over-50s, fell steadily until 1990 before stabilising. For women it was flat but has increased steadily since 1990, mainly because maternity leave allows mothers to return to the same

However, not only has the decrease in average tenure been modest, it also tends to fall when the economy is doing well because more people switch jobs voluntarily.

More significant, the authors

People spend 20 per cent longer in unemployment com-

though there has been little change during the past 10 years. The value of benefits received has fallen relative to the aver-

But the biggest cost is the fact argue, has been the rise in the cost of job loss. that the wages accepted by somebody taking a job after a spell of unemployment are typ-ically lower than in the job

body re-entering work is £100 The report concludes: "It is easier and probably more sensible to try and reduce the costs associated with job loss rather

they lost. This gap has increased over time. Only just over a quarter of "entry" jobs are full

time and permanent, and the

typical weekly wage for some

than to stop job losses. "Unfortunately, over the past 20 years for many people these costs appear to have risen rapidly.

#### **BUSINESS TO BUSINESS**

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Equip t & Supplies Equipment & Supplies

New Models & Higher Specs with Newer Lower Prices 00CDS/CDT, 430CDS/CDT, 510CS/CDT, PORTEGE 660CDT

**AUTHORISED TOSHIBA** 





TOSHIBA GULTRONICS TOS TOSHIBA

SATELLITE 110CS DUAL SCAN COLOUR • Intel Pentium 100Mbz • 8MB Ram

SATELLITE PRO 420CDT COLOUR

Swapable 6x CD-

• Weights 3.4kg
• Windows 95/3.11

TECRA 500CS/CDT COLOUR

\* 1.35GB Hard disk

2291.25 • Windows 95/3.11

From \$10.00+VAT - 3 Tear Warranty

• Intel Pentium 100Mbz

expandable to 40MB

• 810/1.3GB Hard disk

• 8MB EDO Ram

2 POMOA slots

• 3 Year Warranty

L6MB EDO Ram

expandable to 48MB

• 12.1" detail scan cel

infra red interface مت

• 2 PCHCA skets

• Int. AC adaptor • Weighs 3.5kg

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

• 810 MB Hard disk • 11.3" USTN colour display 2 PCHCIA slots (1 x Type (11)) • Weighs 3.2kg • Size 299 x 226 x 53

 Windows 95/3.11 I Year Warranty £1291.33

colour display



Intel Pentium 100K.a:
SMB Ram (40MB)
S10 MB Hard disk

• 11.3" TFT colour display

display

2 POHCIA slots 200 (i x Type ili)
• Weighs 3.2kg • Size 299 x 226 x 53 £1791.88 - Windows 95/3.11 £1525-VAT • | Year Warranty PORTEGE 650CT TFT COLOUR

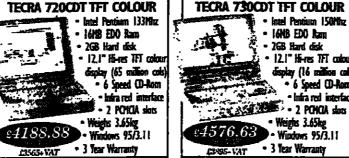
SATELLITE | IOCT TFT COLOUR

-8MB EDO Ram expandable to 40MB -1.35GB Hard disk 10.4" hi-res TFT 2 POHOLÁ slots Weighs just 2.2kg Windows 95/3.11 @2191.383 Year Warranty

PORTEGE 620CT TFT COLOUR

ontel Pentium 133Hh.
16HB EDO Ram
expandable to 80HB
1.35GB Hard disk colour display • 2 POICA slots • Weighs just 2.25kg £3290.00 • Windows 95/3.11

C2800-VAT • 3 Year Warranty



• Intel Pentium 150Mbz IANB EDO REIN 2GB Hard disk اية • 12.1" Hi-res TFT codour • أ display (16 million cols)
6 Speed (D-lom
Infra red interface • 2 PCHCIA slots #4576.63 • Weight 3.65kg • Windows 95/3.11 CEMPS-VAT - 3 Tear Warranty



Financial Security

£30m turnover

Technical Sales

Technical Support

Full Warranty

SHOWROOMS 217-218 Torreman Count Road

EDUCATIONAL CORPORATE & MAIL ORDER ENQUIRIES 217-218 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON WIP SAF FAX: 0171-636 1075

GOVERNMENT.



In Touch with Tomorrow TOSHIBA

Call for the complete range of Toshiba Memory, Accessories and Options!

Mobile Phones

FROM **New Lower Price** FREE



☐ LEATHER CASE ☐ IN-CAR CHARGER

☐ RAPID HOME CHARGER ☐ 22hr BATTERY STAND-BY TEMISED BILLING

☐ ANSWER SERVICE\* O DELIVERY INSURANCE

□ 3 YEAR WARRANTY ☐ 14 DAY TRIAL \*Messages retrieved at 7p per minute.

PHONE FREEPHONE 0500626500

RECEIVE \$25 CASH BACK WHEN YOU CONNECT TO TALK 60 MOBILE EXOTESS

5 157 Southend Road, Grays, Essex RM17 SNP, Tet 01375 393131 • Fax 01375 393057 Opportunities

INFO DIRECT (IOS) TEL: 01709 361819 |

HOW TO MAKE \$430 A DAY AS A FREELANCE COPYWRITER

DO BUSINESS ON THE INTERNET Keep your door open to mil of people worldwidel 24hou day, every day!

For as little as £400 per your business could reach up to 30 million people on the internet. Simply send us your business details and we will build and maintain your place in cyberspace. Contact as today on 01624 825380 for details, or if you are already connected see as at http://www.trauserve.com

NOTICE TO READERS Whilst we take reasonable

strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitmen

Start your nem Toped brokens Sell a wide range of track someon Follow they are your own common Follow they are not common follow they are large established bear lasted by our large established book cannot. Excellent profit promotel. Al. FULLY BOKESD. Laurace for EMO -

AGENTS/ASSOCIATES/

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

req'd to handle/source clients in computer/ IT Networking.

No Franchise type fee reo'd.

Also Energy: Environment

avail. 01706 711336

Dove

Earn £1000/£5000 per

**TRADING** MADE EASIER For information ring 0151 280 9090 Geneva Finance Opportunities

The Preme-Group has developed in conjunction with Loca Councils, NHS Trusts and regions of British Rail an exclusive profes generating service for local businesses that generate repeat business on an annual basis, that has no comp cope with dernand and aid further expansion we are refessing a limited number of franchise opportunities in the Northwest, East and West Midlands, London and Yorkshire will provide

1 Earnings around £50k p.e.

Full initial and ongoing training
 Total flexibility for further exper
 Working business hours

of £10,000 plus VAT. Cell Derek Brown on 0161 930 7000 for further informs

£23,029 last year

"The most enjoyable profit I've ever made" Just 3 hours on a Saturday

 No stock no selling Operate anywhere Not MLM or a franchise

Capital Investment £3,995 For our free 1996 prospectus phone 01452 532415 (7 days, 24 hours)

The Dorchester Plan

#### **ENJOY A REWARDING CAREER HELPING SMOKERS TO QUIT!**

Home study course Optional attendance

· Full or part time Home, office or visits Professional qualification • Prof. insurance scheme On-going support · Very low start up costs

ا ( 🕏 ا

Our member's services are in great demand by companies, hospitals and individuals. U.K. GUILD of SMOKING CESSATION THERAPISTS

Telephone: 01254 762202

24 hour brochure request line NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CALLS

FROM 1 Penny Quality agents and team builders required, up to 12% monthly ongoing commission. Full training and support 07000 228 466

Rome Computer Make excellent full or part-time profits from home with your College of Journalism shows 0800 371 500

FREEPHONE BUSINES MANUFACTURERS

With Your

If you are seeking assistance to establish AGENTS & DISTRIBUTORS full origining training and support. Intal Agency lee only £4,750+VAT IN EUROPE please contact Fax: 0181 560 1109

هكذا من الأصل

# Bees could put the sting back into pesticides

The natural immunisation of pests against chemicals has been unravelled, reports Bernard Dixon

here is nothing new about treating a human or other animal with a chemical to eradicate a harmful microbe from the body; it happens whenever a doctor prescribes an antibiotic to combat an infection. But scientists in India have achieved almost the opposite. They have protected bees against a chemical - an insecticide - by inoculating them with bacteria that break it down. Their discovery, microbes to decontaminate a living creature, may have important applications in

Microbes have a remarkable capacity to attack otherwise toxic chemicals, a fact already exploited in environmental cleansing. Biotechnologists have rendered several contaminated sites safe, either by introducing bacteria into the soil to break down pollutants or by stimulating the growth and activity of those already there. An example is the abandoned Greenbank gas works, near Blackburn.

In at least one very different context, microbes capable of attacking chemicals are less beneficial. Bacteria are suspected of being responsible for providing disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes with resistance to the pesticides sprayed on breeding grounds. In ome cases the insects acquire the capacity themselves, through mutation, to withstand insecticides or to produce enzymes that break them down. But bacteria on or inside insects also appear to play a significant role. One report showed microorganisms living on the surface of blowflies were capable of destroying the pesticide dield-

With this in mind. ID Sharma and colleagues at the Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in Solan, India, investigated further. Their first step was to discover that certain honey bees became vulnerable to the insecticide carbaryl when treated with antibiotics. Were the bees normally unaffected by carbaryl because they harboured bacteria that normally rendered the pesticide harmless? And did the antibiotics make the bees susceptible to carbaryl by killing these protective

Journal of Applied Bacteriology.



both suppositions proved correct. First, the researchers studied honey bees already known to be resistant to carbaryl. They found that they contained at least three types of bacteria which, when transferred to laboratory glassware and grown in the presence of carbaryl, broke Enterobacter aerogenes, another was a species of Citrohacter, and the third could not be identified. All were dedicated degraders of carbaryl, able to grow on it by using it as their sole source of

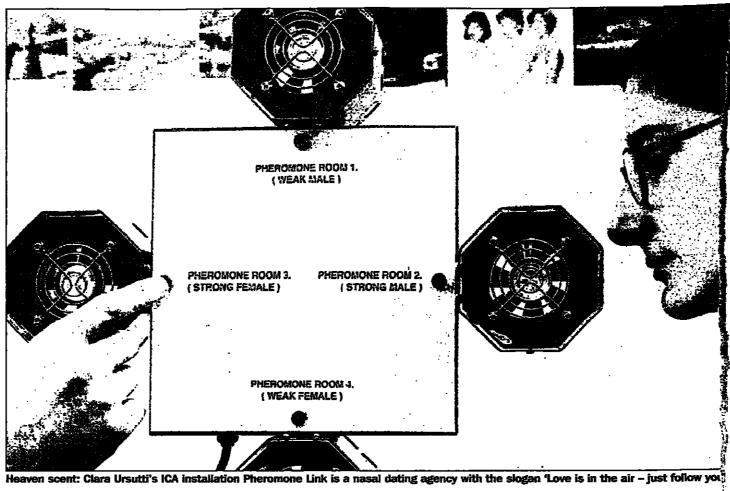
energy and carbon. In a second set of experiments, the researchers set out to find out what concentration of the antibiotic streptomycin would destroy the bacteria inside the bees without harming the bees themselves. The tests established that, as the bacteria were killed, so the bees became vulnerable to the insecticide. The compelling conclusion from the two sets of results was that normally the microbes were indeed protecting the bees against carbaryl.



A third group of experiments put the matter beyond question, and suggested application the first dating agency to tions of the discovery. Sharma and his colleagues grew pure cultures of the Citrobacter species, Enterobacter acrogenes and the unidentified organism in the laboratory and then inoculated them into other bees to see whether this enhanced whatever capacity they had to withstand the insecticide. In every case, introduction of the bacteria greatly increased the bees tolerance towards carbaryl. Each of the microbes was effective, but the highest degree of protection came when the three were introduced together. This indicates that they act in concert to promote the most efficient breakdown of the insecticide and thus render the

One possible application of treated with an insecticide to prevent insect attack. In this case, bees inoculated with strains of bacteria designed to boost their resistance to the relevant pesticide could be used to

nsure pollination. The obvious risk with an approach of this sort is that the bacteria might be transferred from beneficial bees to destructive pests, enhancing their resistance to pesticides. But Sharma believes this danger could be sidestepped by modifying the microbes so they fulfil their protective role in bees but fail o grow and thus become established in other insects.



science

# On the scent of lo

t was the smelliest art-work on display at the Institute of Contempo-Pheromones, the chemicals that produce a person's ur sexual 'signature', can be used to sniff out the perfect rary Arts. Part of the Toshiba Art and Innopartner, or create olfactory artworks. John Windsor repe vation show was a push-button blower dispensing four differ-ent examples of human body each other's body odour. odour. Interactive, too - there were cotton armpit pads to colfallen angel of the senses - and There's an odour conversation lect samples of one's own smell, of the arts. My interest in it is

directed its Institute of Olfac-

thing of an artistic activity, so I

find it easy to work with Clara,"

he says. "There is art for the

visual system and for the audi-

tory system. Why not for the

where he can look out over the

His is the world's only labora

help to diagnose disease. Dr Dodd has chemically iden-

tified and synthesised all the

ons that Pheromone Link could

them to express preferences for

post on tear-off smell strips

could find out what odour note

That way, in a few moves, I

olfactory system, too?"

Perfumery is a craft, some-

tory Research.

-shirts (or rather, sweatshirts), an extension of my interest in and a pile of questionnaires. the body, a common theme in art. I challenge the art-historical notion that the self-portrait attempt to match partners by their smell. It is called Pherois something strictly visual." Behind the arts scenes lurks mone Link, and the artist, 28scientist - Dr George Dodd, year-old Clara Ursutti, a grad-54, the father of the psychology uate of the Glasgow School of of perfumery. Until two years Art, plans to advertise it in ago, he was the only trained newspapers and magazines. Volperfumer with a university post. unteers will receive a welcome He lectured in chemistry at the University of Warwick and

letter that says: "Love is in the air - just follow your nose! Pheromones are biochemicals that signal our sexuality to others. Everyone has a unique pheromone signature; ask any police dog. If you want to question whether Pheromone Link is art or science, ponder this: we may not know much about pheromones, but we know what

The four odours on offer at bees insensitive to its ill effects. the ICA-two male, two female - smelled neither human nor these findings is in situations alluring to me. But perceived where crops require pollina- faintly across a crowded room, As reported in this month's tion, yet the blossom has to be any one of them might have had a galvanic effect. Nor could I tell them apart, except for the pun-gent "strong male". Ms Ursutti was reassuring: "You can state your sexual preference on the questionnaire," she said.

Her other olfactory artworks, "self-portraits in scent", have been wafted electronically inside an airtight booth at an art exhibition in Glasgow and distributed on bits of blotting paper in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and at last year's Venice Biennale, where they were available from vending machines. "I'm not arrogant enough to think I can come up with an aesthetic of smell," she says, "But smell between them. That is what is meant by 'sexual chemistry'. But

hefore now it has never been worked out scientifically." Some people, he says, have clear and unambiguous smell preferences. But to help identify body odours that couples can agree they like, he will also use not only his own trained nose and those of a panel of experts, but the "electronic nose" that he has developed. It has 12 electronic sensors, mimicking the thousands of sensors in the human nose, and can come up with an olfactory fingerprint of human pheromone samples presented to it. "For the first time."

he says, "we will be able to

match even extreme types of

human pheromone." Think of that next time you embark on high. We are now in a choosing a perfume, or even an artwork, for a loved one.

Dr Dodd has already developed a synthetic human pheromone booster, the Pheromone Factor, produced by the Kiotech company, available by mail order (0990 120134) and advertised on the Quantum company's TV shopping channel. He says: "It can revitalise your pheromones and recreate the pheromone kick you had

when you we're 20. "The output of pheromones starts with puberty, peaks in the late twenties, then diminishes.

talking to. It's this third crucial stage that results in absolute success or failure, because if we can't detect their pheromones. we probably won't find them

Bogus? Mutton scell lamb? "The Pheromone

is not the complete answ

says, "but if people thin"

have a reasonable basis

permanent relationship

we can give a bit of the in 3

infomercial, he explains.

creatures we are vision de

nated. It's our eyes that :

attract us to a potential m?

The next stage of attention aural: we actually respond

the tone of their voice. If t

On the shopping char

Dr Dodd has discovered that the seven families of human pheromones correspond to the aroma of the foods traditionally considered aphrodisiac truffles, caviare, shellfish, champagne, beer, ripe cheese and vintage wine. And: "I speculate ural the amedly that the body odien, and find attractive in a sexuody had ner is that of our own we always

omones of the person we're

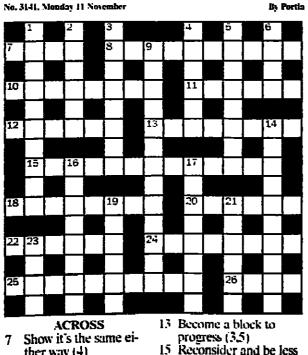
Photograph: L

He is attempting tout when I pheromones to all for this fight. lems related to ster than ever diet and smoking. 1g partners arts he looks forwarver me. smelly operatics. repressing to supplied with smhave a chance

savour Bizet's fic rked for me. Carmen, then making else I'd late twenties, then diminishes.
Reduced sexual activity and incompatibilities in sexual drive. can create problems, especially nowadays, when expectations the tone of their voice. If I is sound good, we move in closs and divergence of the common sense of sm is comes into play and our brain them both. Is the ger than Mike, them both. Is the ger than Mike, them both is the great the given the gi



#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ther way (4) 8 Present sum is expensive no matter what

10 Bloomer's made by Henry receiving rise (8) 11 Firm date? (b) 12 Girl in the hostel lashed

15 Reconsider and be less disapproving (5.6.2) 18 Warn Greek guy about money before end of the month (8)

20 Clear wet fish (6) Bird, three quarters done in stone (6) grammatical terms? (8) 25 Swirling rain comes, en-

gulfing one group of Pa-citic islands (10) 26 An age going round the Northern college (4)

Roman city said to be in ruins (10) Attraction of a ring, say

Withdraw support after work (4.4) Meantime furnishes lit-

le room (6) Well-balanced as a group (8) Boss remained within

hearing (4) Disagreeing with deal Reg has got arranged A story involving female

16 I point out narrow shaped implements (8) Dutch explorer possess-

pupil causes trouble

es element of charm (8) 19 Elected to serve and produce plan (6) 21 I deceive Greek charac-

ter about setting (6) 24 Perfect construction in 23 Utter spell upside-down

Texaco CleanSystem<sup>3</sup>. Think of it as preventative medicine. A regular injection of Texaco running on, lumpy running,

CleanSystem<sup>3</sup> petrol can help protect your car from many of the complaints caused by modern-day motoring. It can help prevent the

build-up of carbon deposits that congest the valves and produce symptoms such as pinking and a lack of power. Independent research has shown that over 10 million' drivers are suffering from

some or all of these symptoms. Yet, used regularly, Texaco CleanSystem is guaranteed. to help cure them.

And the AA agree that Texaco CleanSystem<sup>a</sup> petrol is good. news for motorists.

TEXACO CleanSystem<sup>3</sup>

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL

